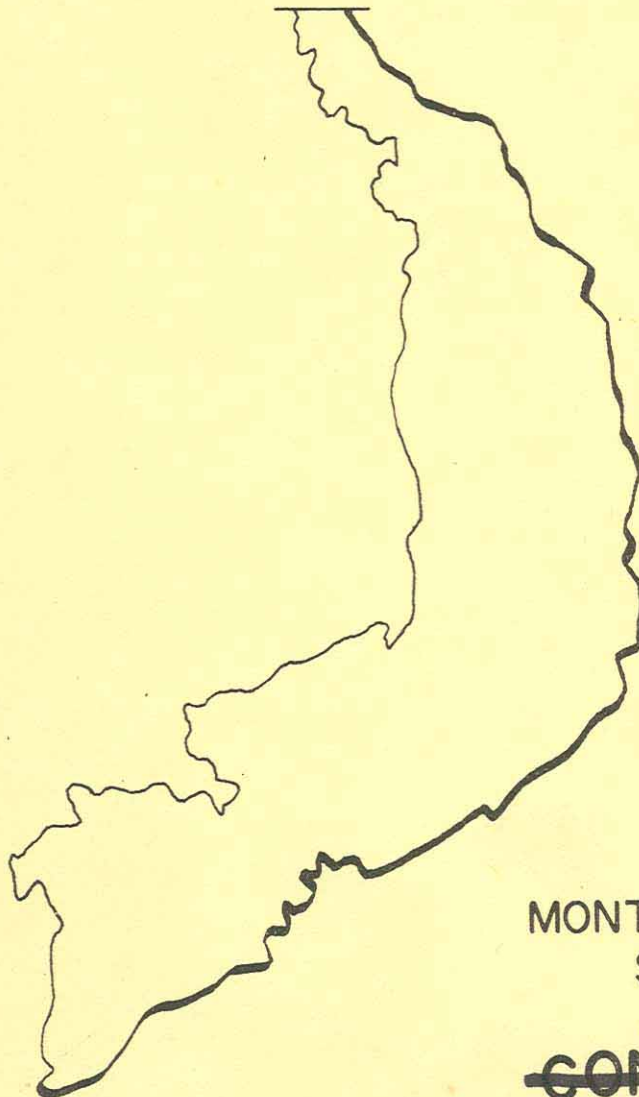
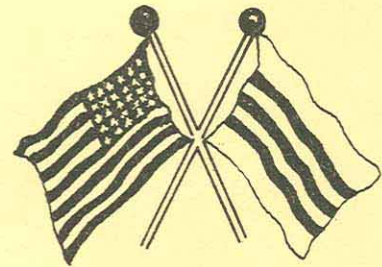


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# U.S. NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM



MONTHLY HISTORICAL  
SUPPLEMENT  
JUNE 1967

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam  
APO San Francisco 96214

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W. H. CROOM, Jr.  
Flag Secretary

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#### FOREWORD

In June the Riverine Assault Force demonstrated its versatility as an instrument of delta warfare. Operating in support of hard-pressed U.S. Army elements in Long An province, the mobile RAF units provided accurate, close gunfire support which repeatedly helped disrupt enemy forces.

Units of Operation GAME WARDEN, meanwhile, continued to exert pressure along Viet Cong crossing routes and "tax" collection sites. The growing influence of the PBRs' familiar presence was perhaps best illustrated by two incidents during the month in which inhabitants of the Mekong Delta hailed patrols, accompanied them to collection sites, and pointed out Viet Cong.

In the First Coastal Zone, there were continued attempts by the enemy to interrupt the flow of waterborne traffic in the Cua Viet approaches to Dong Ha. On one occasion, enemy rockets and artillery fire struck an LST ramp site near the channel entrance. On another occasion, an LST was mined while discharging cargo.

In one of the most significant operations of the month, two River Assault Groups of the Vietnamese Navy joined with Vietnamese Army troops in sweeping the canal complex that links the Delta's Co Chien and Bassac rivers. As a result of the operation the marketplace near the Mang Thit Bridge, dormant for years because of Viet Cong domination, was opened for business.

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1 June - RAGs 21, 26, 27 and 32 support the ARVN SEVENTH Division in an operation in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone. A large quantity of Viet Cong arms and supplies is captured. p. 80.
- 2 - CAPT A. R. MARSCHALL, USN, assumes the additional duty of COMTHIRDNCB. p. 61.
- 4 - Three PCF 76 crew members are wounded by automatic-weapons fire near Cape Batangan. p. 19.  
- PBR fire fells 20 to 30 Viet Cong fleeing across an open field seven miles from Ben Tre. p. 8.
- 6 - Sa Dec-based PBRs interdict a major crossing in the upper Mekong River. Nine Viet Cong are killed and seven sampans are sunk. p. 10.  
- Enemy fire kills two Seabees and wounds 12 others at Khe Sanh. p. 51.  
- ATC 112-3 is mined near Dong Tam; craft sustains extensive damage. p. 33.  
- CAPT S. R. SMITH, USN, assumes the duties of OICC, RVN, and DEPCOM PACDIV, NAVFACENGCOM, SEASIA. p. 61.
- 7 - A Navy helicopter is shot down during a strike against an enemy troop concentration in Kien Hoa province. Four U.S. crewmen are wounded; three Viet Cong are killed. p. 8.  
- Four U.S. sailors and one Vietnamese policeman are wounded during an ambush in the Ham Luong River. p. 9.
- 8 - USS HOLMES COUNTY (LST 836) is placed under the operational control of COMNAVSUPPACT Saigon and begins Delta resupply missions. p. 49.
- 12 - The LST ramp site at the Cua Viet entrance is attacked by Viet Cong employing rockets and artillery fire. p. 41.
- 13 - Delta inhabitant accompanies PBR patrol to the mouth of the Mekong River and points out two Viet Cong. Similar incident occurs two days later near My Tho. p. 6.  
- Joint civic action team conducts extensive mission in the hamlet of Long Hai, in Binh Thuan province. p. 63.

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- 15 June - The merchant ship COSMOS TRADER, aground near Vung Tau, is pulled free by a combined salvage effort. p. 55.
- 16 - Troops of the Mobile Riverine Force destroy a large enemy base area in Bien Hoa province. p. 35.
- A new patrol unit, Coastal Division 16, is activated on a provisional basis at Chu Lai. p. 27.
- RAGs 23 and 31 and ARVN NINTH Division troops complete a sweep begun in May to drive the Viet Cong from the Mang Thit River-Nicolai Canal complex. p. 79.
- 18 - SEALs kill three Viet Cong and capture seven others in a hamlet west of My Tho. p. 6.
- 19 - RAF gunfire helps disrupt enemy forces during Operation CONCORDIA I, in Long An province. p. 37.
- 20 - Four Swift boats rescue 11 sailors blown into the water by an explosion at Duc Pho. p. 20.
- Four new PGMs are formally transferred to the Vietnamese Navy. p. 69.
- 25 - PCF 97 is sunk by enemy fire near the mouth of the Ganh Hao River, 45 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point. p. 25.
- Coastal Groups 12 and 13 support the ARVN 31st Combat Group in an operation 45 miles northwest of Danang. Viet Cong losses include 222 killed and 76 captured. p. 76.
- 29 - USS COCONINO COUNTY (LST-603) is mined at the Cua Viet LST ramp. p. 41.
- 30 - Numerical strength of NAVFORV is 24,464.

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RIVER PATROL FORCE (TASK FORCE 116)

During June, units of the River Patrol Force continued to exert pressure on Viet Cong lines of communications and "tax" collection sites along the major rivers of the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat Special Zone.

On the evening of 6 June Operation GAME WARDEN PBRs interdicted a major crossing attempt just east of Sa Dec, in the Delta; seven sampans were sunk during the engagement and at least 40 others were forced to flee to the northwest. In the Ham Luong River, scene of numerous clashes in recent months, PBRs and helicopter fire teams conducted several successful attacks against enemy ambush positions and troop concentrations.

The Viet Cong tried to counter the attacks with an increasing number of ambushes aimed at destroying PBRs, but the agility of the high-speed boats repeatedly frustrated what has clearly become a major Viet Cong objective.

Perhaps the most telling aspect of the PBR presence was its disruptive effect on the Viet Cong's "taxation" of Delta inhabitants. On two occasions in June, boatmen along the My Tho River hailed patrols, accompanied them to "tax" collection sites, and pointed out Viet Cong. In Kien Hoa Province, the Vietnamese National Police estimated that the Ham Luong patrols were costing the Viet Cong about 100,000 piasters (\$850) daily in lost revenues.

Late in the month, captured enemy documents indicated that the Viet Cong were keeping detailed records on the movements and "habits"

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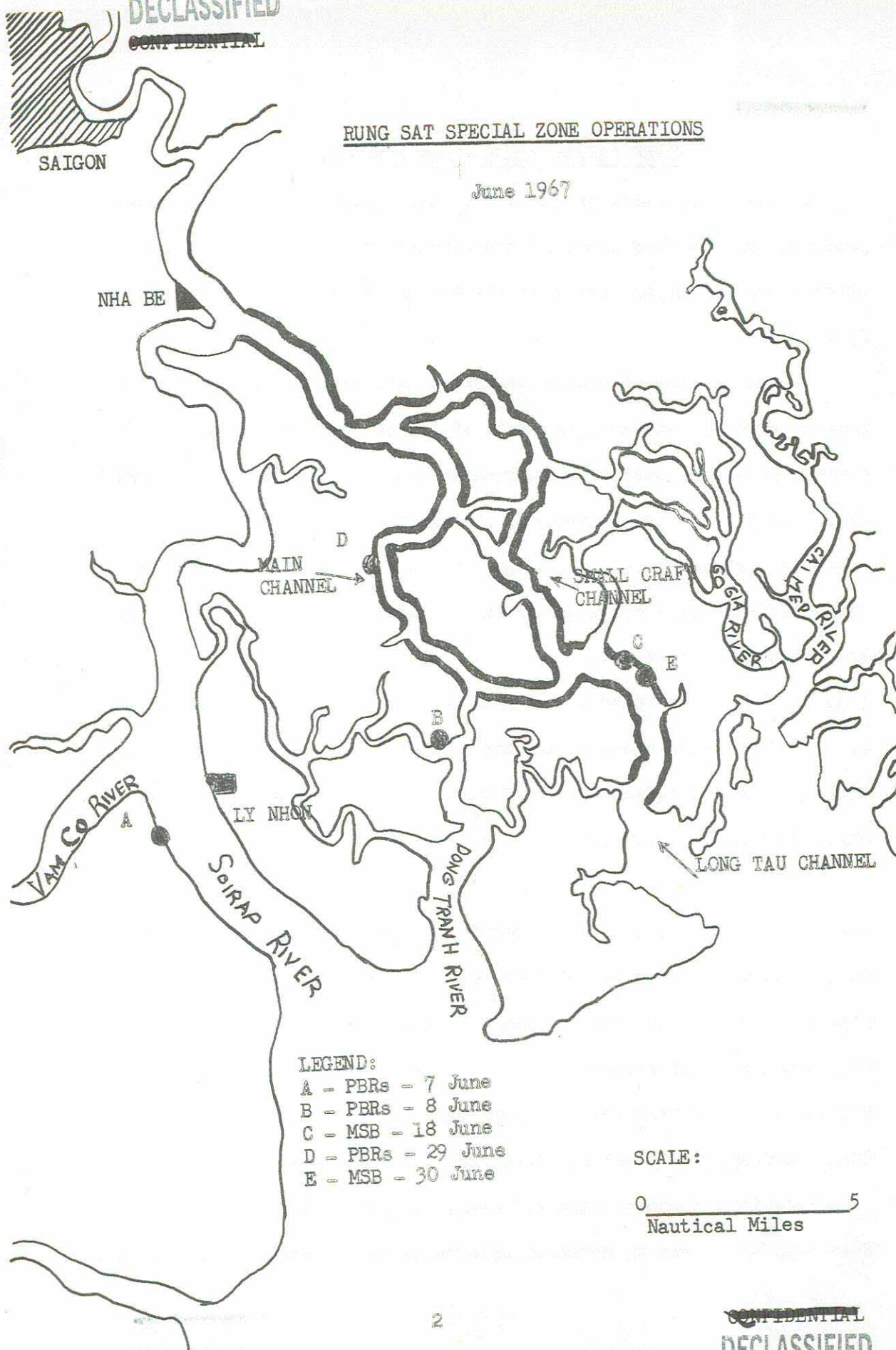


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RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE OPERATIONS

June 1967



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of various PBRs, apparently in an attempt to discern patrol patterns that could be used in planning ambushes. Accordingly, external hull numbers and other identifying marks were removed from all PBRs.

#### RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE RIVER PATROL GROUP

In June the number of hostile fire incidents in the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ) increased somewhat above the level recorded in recent months.

On the evening of 6 June, Army and Navy helicopters, PBRs, and an Air Force AC-47 supported Popular Force troops in a counterattack against Viet Cong units that had surrounded and infiltrated certain sections of Ly Nhon village. The helicopters struck enemy positions on the outskirts of the village while the "Dragonship" provided illumination and fire support. The action lasted throughout the night and forced the Viet Cong to retreat. A subsequent sweep of the area revealed that the enemy had suffered heavy casualties. One Popular Force soldier was killed during the engagement and seven others were wounded. There were no U.S. casualties.

The next day PBRs supported a Regional Force demolition squad which had been landed on the west bank of the Soirap River, 15 miles south of Nha Be. Almost immediately the ten-man squad surprised a reinforced platoon of Viet Cong in their base camp. In the ensuing exchange seven of the enemy were killed. In addition, one Viet Cong and ten individual weapons were captured. The RF squad and its U.S. advisors then withdrew under covering fire from the PBRs.

On 8 June PBR 147, the leading craft of a four-boat patrol in

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the Dinh Ba River, narrowly avoided sustaining a direct hit by a controlled mine. Moments after the boat had maneuvered to avoid a suspicious-looking array of sticks floating in the river, an explosion beneath the array spewed a column of water 50 feet into the air. The PBR's radios, radar, and forward .50 caliber mount were damaged by the blast, and the forward gunner was wounded slightly.

There were two attacks on U.S. minesweepers in the Saigon channel during the month. Both involved "claymore" mines detonated from the south bank of the Long Tau River, about 13 miles southeast of Nha Be. In the first incident, which occurred on the morning of 18 June, the MSB sustained minor damage from shrapnel. On 30 June a "claymore" exploded near an MSB during the craft's first sweep of the day; no damage resulted. There were no personnel casualties in either incident.

Four U.S. Navy personnel were wounded on 29 June when PBR 25 was struck by recoilless-rifle fire. The incident occurred in the upper Dong Tranh River, eight and one-half miles southeast of Nha Be. The PBR was part of a special four-boat patrol operating near the suspected location of the headquarters of the Viet Cong commander of the RSSZ. When the patrol came under intense fire from positions on the north bank of the river, the PBRs returned the fire and withdrew under the covering fire of air and artillery support. The damaged PBR subsequently proceeded to Nha Be under its own power after the wounded had been evacuated by helicopter.

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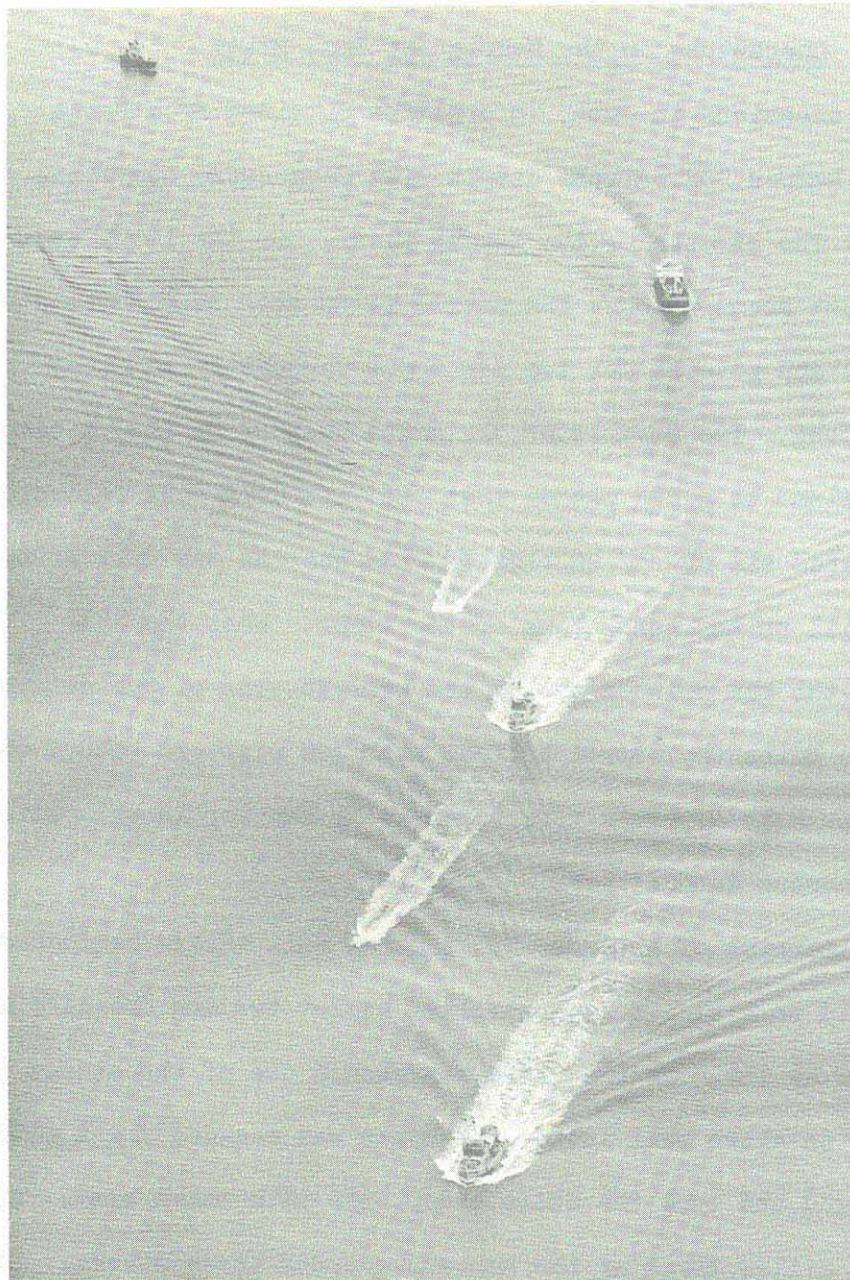
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U. S. Navy MSBs sweep ahead of two merchant ships in the Long Tau River.

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## DELTA RIVER PATROL GROUP

### Operations in the Mekong (My Tho) River

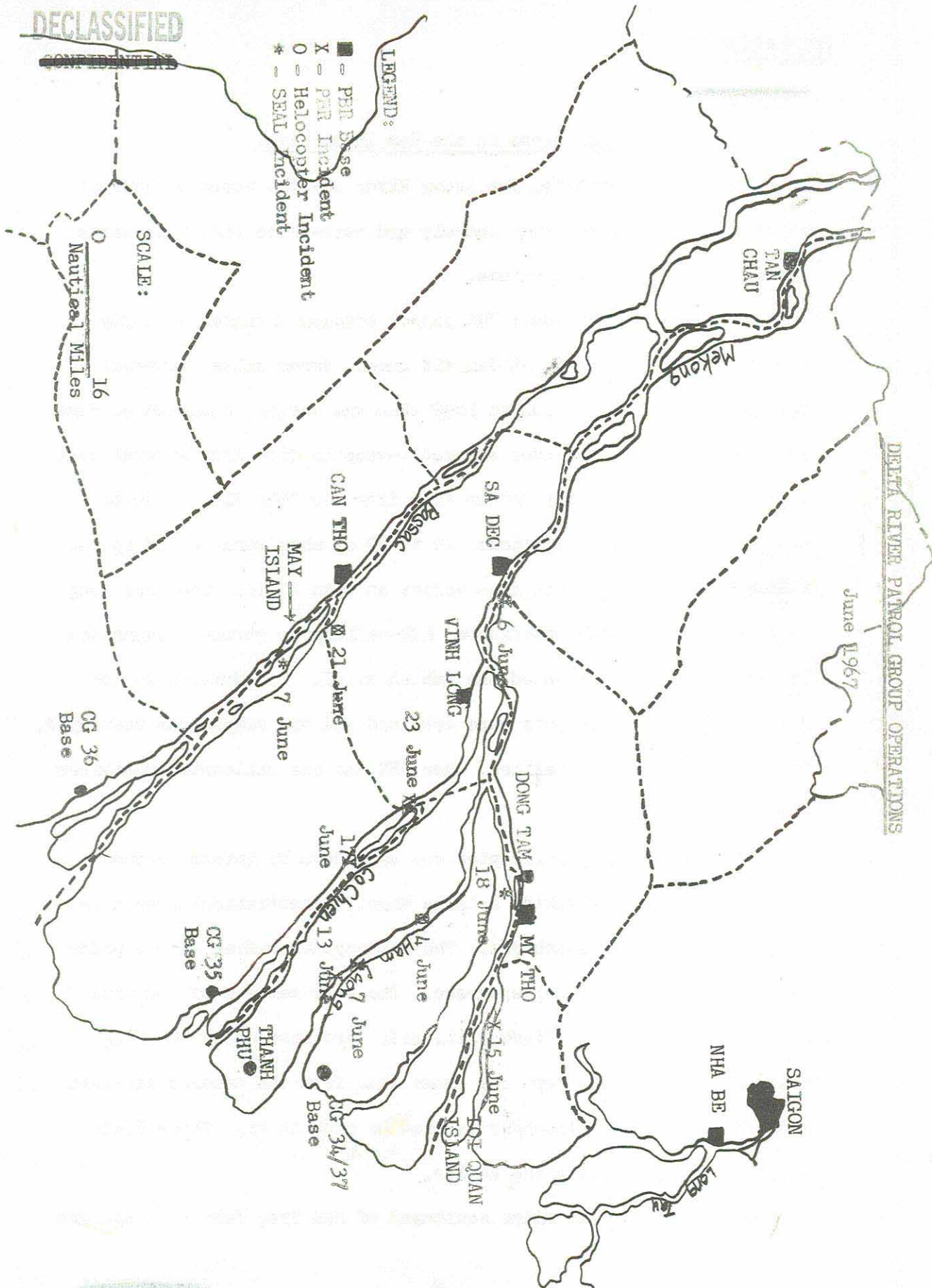
On two occasions in June, information obtained from Delta inhabitants helped PBR patrols detain Viet Cong cadre operating along the My Tho stretch of the Mekong River. On the 13th, one such informant accompanied a PBR patrol to an area near the mouth of the river and pointed out two men who subsequently admitted being Viet Cong. Two days later, 12 miles east of My Tho, a sampan owner complained to a PBR patrol that two Viet Cong "tax collectors" had confiscated six of the 40 bags of rice the man was delivering to a rice mill on the north bank of the river. When the PBRs apprehended the men pointed out by the boatman, one of the detainees attempted to bribe the patrol officer with 700 piasters (about \$6.00) and a watch. Both suspects were taken to My Tho for interrogation by the Vietnamese authorities.

On the morning of 18 June, two six-man SEAL squads conducted a daylight raid on a Viet Cong-controlled hamlet two and one-half miles southwest of My Tho. As the SEALs approached one of the houses in the hamlet, an alarm bell inside the house was sounded and a number of men emerged and took the SEALs under fire with small arms. The return fire killed three of the men and wounded three others. Four additional suspects were detained. There were no U.S. casualties. Subsequent interrogation revealed that the men were local Viet Cong guerrillas whose activities in the area included "tax" collection.

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### Operations in the Ham Luong River

During the month the Ham Luong River was the scene of several major clashes between river patrols and main-force Viet Cong units operating in Kien Hoa province.

On 4 June a three-boat PBR patrol engaged a number of enemy positions near the mouth of Cai Mit creek, seven miles southeast of Ben Tre. The action began at 1630 when the patrol, composed of PBRs 29, 115 and 116, came under automatic-weapons fire from several bank emplacements. The heavy return fire from the PBRs flushed 50 to 60 Viet Cong from their positions, 20 to 30 of whom were felled by the PBRs as they attempted to flee across an open field. The hour-long engagement ended when coordinated PBR-helicopter strikes, augmented by artillery fire, silenced the ambush sites. In addition to the enemy killed, two suspects were detained and one sampan was destroyed. There were no U.S. casualties. One PBR and one helicopter sustained minor damage.

On 7 June a Navy helicopter was shot down by intense ground fire while it was attacking a large troop concentration three miles west of the town of Thanh Phu. The helicopter crashed into a paddy dike and suffered extensive damage. The four members of the crew, all of whom were only slightly injured, were rescued by the wing helicopter which also kept the enemy away from the damaged aircraft until a heavy-lift helicopter arrived to pick it up. Three Viet Cong were killed during the action.

That same day, 11 miles southeast of Ben Tre, four U.S. sailors

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and a Vietnamese maritime policeman were wounded when the Viet Cong attacked a PBR patrol. A large-caliber round (probably a B-40 rocket) struck the leading boat--PBR 100--to port, wounding the entire crew and the embarked policeman. Another large-caliber round passed through the bow of the covering boat, PBR 102, without exploding. The patrol returned the enemy fire and withdrew while artillery fire and air strikes were delivered into the area. The patrol then proceeded to a nearby Popular Force outpost where the wounded were evacuated by helicopter. During the engagement both PBRs sustained numerous hits by small arms and automatic weapons in addition to the damage caused by the large-caliber rounds.

On 13 June, six PBRs struck enemy positions 12 miles southeast of Ben Tre in response to an intelligence report that the Viet Cong were preparing an ambush. The fire from the PBRs triggered two secondary explosions, started two fires, destroyed two sampans and killed at least one Viet Cong. A sailor embarked in one of the PBRs, Seaman J. J. CLIFFORD, USN, attached to the GAME WARDEN support ship, USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821), was killed during the engagement by a rifle grenade.

Throughout June helicopter surveillance along the Ba Lai River led to a series of air-to-ground incidents. During the month helicopter fire teams killed nine Viet Cong, destroyed seven sampans, damaged five others, and triggered one secondary explosion.

#### Operations in the Co Chien and Upper Mekong Rivers

On the evening of 6 June, Sa Dec-based PBRs of River Section 521

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disrupted a major Viet Cong crossing attempt in the upper Mekong River. The action began at 2045 when PBRs 81 and 118, on a routine patrol in a known crossing area four miles east of Sa Dec, sighted numerous sampans moving along the north bank of the river. As the patrol approached to investigate, the sampans attempted to evade into an inlet and were taken under fire. During the pursuit, PBR 118 went hard aground on a mud bank just as heavy automatic-weapons and small-arms fire broke out from nearby Cat Island. The fire was returned and artillery support was requested and received from the 105-mm. howitzer battery at Duc Thon.

PBRs 54 and 84 joined the engagement, and the Naval Support Activity detachment at Sa Dec dispatched an LCM to assist PBR 118. At 2300, under heavy enemy fire, the grounded PBR was pulled off the mud bank. At 2345, the Giao Duc sub-sector battery delivered nine rounds of 105-mm. howitzer fire into the Viet Cong sites and the enemy positions became silent. During the engagement nine Viet Cong were killed, one suspect was detained, and seven sampans were sunk. In addition, at least 40 enemy sampans reversed course and fled to the northwest. There were no U.S. casualties.

On the night of 17 June, 25 miles southeast of Vinh Long, a three-boat patrol (PBRs 136, 141 and 143) joined a Vietnamese Navy LSSL in assisting a beleaguered Popular Force outpost under attack by an estimated 200 Viet Cong. During the ensuing four and one-half hour engagement, the PBRs exchanged fire with automatic-weapons, small-arms and mortar positions. Although the outpost was heavily

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damaged by mortar fire, the Viet Cong were driven off. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

On 23 June, two women in a sampan hailed PBR 138, which was on a routine patrol with PBRs 136 and 141 in the Co Chien. The women--a pregnant woman in labor and a midwife--were trying to reach the hospital at Vinh Long, 17 miles upstream. The women were taken on board PBR 138 and, enroute, the woman gave birth to a boy. There were no complications during the delivery and, upon arrival at Vinh Long, the three Vietnamese were transferred to an ambulance and the PBR returned to its patrol station.

#### Operations in the Bassac River

On 7 June, a SEAL reconnaissance patrol conducted a demolition mission against a Viet Cong rest area near the northern tip of Tan Dinh Island. As the SEALs began to withdraw, the patrol leader spotted one of the Viet Cong as the enemy maneuvered to ambush the SEALs. When the patrol leader shot and killed the man, 12 to 15 other Viet Cong opened fire from the right flank, wounding the patrol leader. The patrol then executed a leapfrogging withdrawal along its previous line of march and, under the covering fire of its waiting LCPL, set up defensive positions along the bank until every member of the patrol was back on board. Three Viet Cong were killed during the incident.

On the afternoon of 21 June, PBRs 39 and 127 came under fire from the north bank of the Bassac, four miles downstream from Can Tho. The patrol returned the heavy automatic-weapons fire and

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detected three sampans attempting to evade into a canal. One of the sampans beached, and its three black-uniformed occupants were killed by .50 caliber machine-gun fire as they sought shelter in the tree line. The intensity of the fire from the bank then began to increase and the PBRs requested air and artillery support.

Shortly thereafter, the Vietnamese Army's artillery battery at Tra On delivered 105-mm. howitzer fire into the enemy positions and two Navy helicopters subsequently arrived to conduct strikes on targets marked by tracer fire from the PBRs. During the two and one half-hour engagement at least six Viet Cong were killed. There were no U.S. casualties.

\*\*\*

#### GAME WARDEN UNITS

On 1 June the organization of the Delta River Patrol Group was modified slightly to provide for a more effective distribution of river patrol sections, and to improve the alignment of the areas of responsibility for the various task unit commanders. The operational control of units responsible for patrolling the Co Chien River region was transferred from Commander River Division 53 (CTU 116.1.3) at My Tho to Commander River Division 52 (CTU 116.1.2). At the same time, COMRIVDIV 52 moved his headquarters from Sa Dec to Vinh Long. Meanwhile, Commander River Division 51 (CTU 116.1.1) at Binh Thuy retained operational control of units tasked with patrolling the lower Bassac River.

On 18 June USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) was moved from the

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mouth of the Soirap River to the mouth of the Co Chien River;  
operational control of Section 533, embarked in JENNINGS COUNTY,  
was shifted from Commander Rung Sat Special Zone River Patrol  
Group to CTU 116.1.2. At the same time, Light Helicopter Squadron  
THREE, Detachment 5 was activated in JENNINGS COUNTY.

As a result of the month's changes, a total of 30 PBRs and one  
light helicopter fire team were assigned to the RSSZ, and 90 PBRs  
and four light helicopter fire teams were operating in the Mekong  
Delta. On 30 June the various river sections, helicopter detach-  
ments and SEAL units were based as follows:

<u>River Sections</u>	<u>Base</u>
511	USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 786) (Bassac River)
512	Binh Thuy
513	USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) (Ham Luong River)
521	Sa Dec
522	Tan Chau
523	Vinh Long
531	My Tho
532	My Tho
533	USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) (Co Chien River)
542	Nha Be
543	Nha Be
544	Nha Be

HA(L)-3 Detachments

1	USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 786)
2	Nha Be
3	Vinh Long
4	USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821)
5	USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846)

SEAL Team Detachments

SEAL Team ONE (Detachment G)	Nha Be
E Platoon	Nha Be

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SEAL Team Detachments (Cont.)

H Platoon  
J Platoon  
L Platoon

SEAL Team TWO (Detachment A)  
4th Platoon  
5th Platoon

Base

Nha Be  
Nha Be  
Vinh Long

Binh Thuy  
My Tho  
Binh Thuy

\*\*\*

GAME WARDEN STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
June 1967

1. PBR Statistics:

- a. Total Patrols (two boats): Day 639 Night 701
- b. Total Contacts: Day 63,007 Night 16,057
- c. Total Inspected: Day 17,109 Night 4,752
- d. Total Boarded: Day 32,572 Night 6,750
- e. Persons Detained: 864
- f. Sampans/Junks Detained: 25
- g. Total Patrol Hours: 34,852

2. Helicopter Fire Team Statistics:

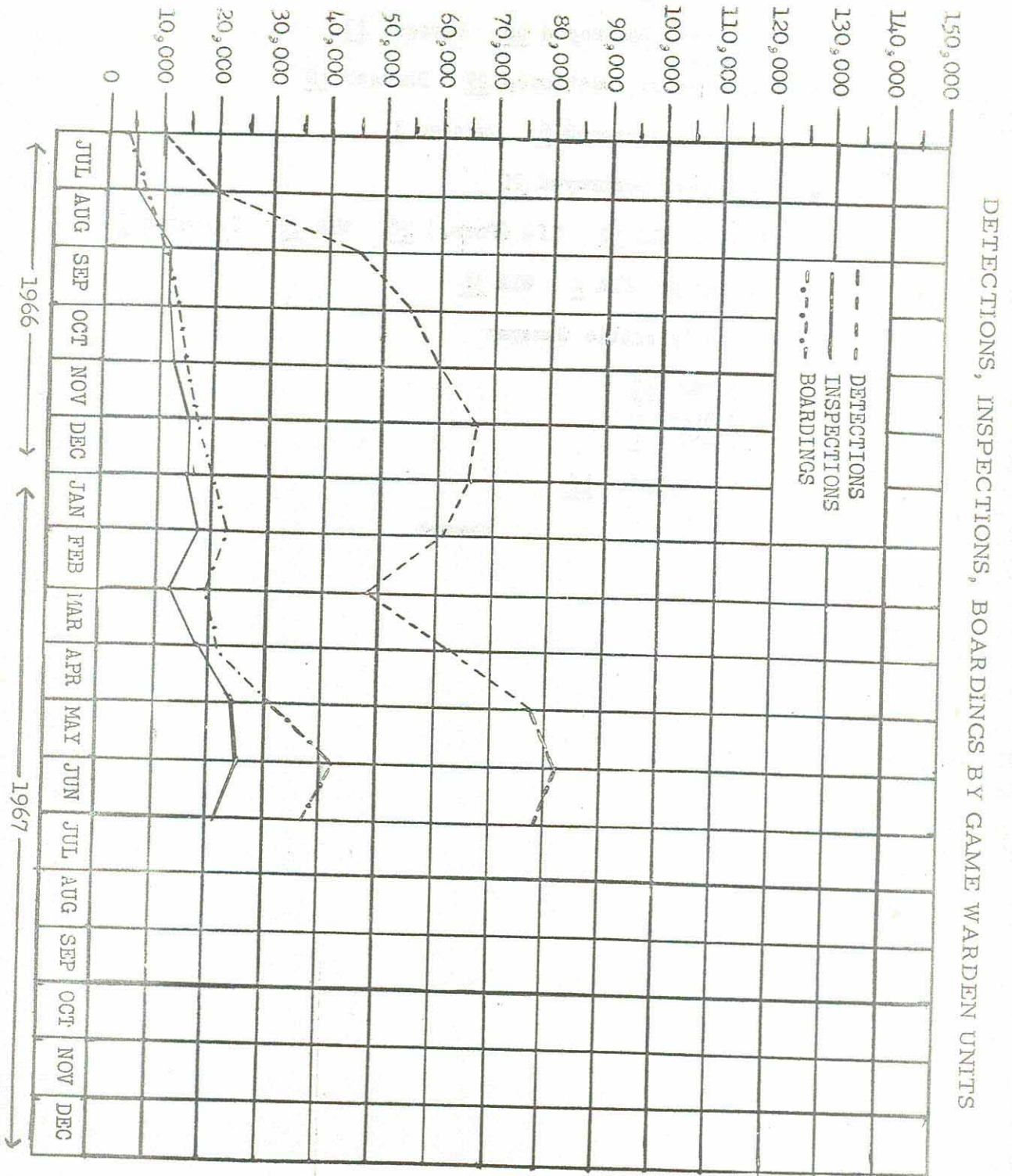
- a. Total Flight Hours: 665
- b. Helicopter Missions:
  - (1) Pre-planned strikes: 32
  - (2) Reaction: 35
  - (3) Targets of Opportunity: 22
  - (4) Support: 135

3. GAME WARDEN Totals:

- a. Fire fights:
  - (1) PBR 84
  - (2) Helo 12
  - (3) LCM 2
  - (4) MSB 2

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(5) LCPL 1  
(6) STAB 1

- b. Sampans: Destroyed 46 Damaged 17
- c. Structures: Destroyed 29 Damaged 10
- d. Junks: Destroyed 6 Damaged 1
- e. Bunkers: Destroyed 25
- f. Enemy: KIA 92 KIA (Poss.) 28 WIA 27 Captured 5
- g. Friendly: KIA 1 WIA 31
- h. Friendly Battle Damage:
  - (1) PBR 13
  - (2) Helo 6
  - (3) LST 1
- i. PBR MEDEVAC: 46

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#### COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE (TASK FORCE 115)

In June units of the Coastal Surveillance Force detected 150,000 diverse craft along South Vietnam's coastline; more than half of these were inspected or boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 113 craft and 1,009 suspects.

On 16 June a new patrol unit, Coastal Division 16, was activated on a provisional basis at Chu Lai. The Division's nucleus-- 12 PCFs--was formed by reassigning eight Swift boats from Danang's Coastal Division 12 and the four Coastal Division 14 Swift boats at Qui Nhon.

#### OPERATION MARKET TIME

During the month Operation MARKET TIME units detected 111,000 junks and sampans; 60 per cent of these were inspected or boarded. The boardings resulted in the detention of 82 craft and 869 suspects. In addition, 722 steel-hulled craft were detected transiting MARKET TIME areas.

The month's MARKET TIME activity also included participation in four ground operations, 58 gunfire support missions, 28 hostile fire incidents, 11 evasion incidents, and five search and rescue missions.

As a result of these operations, 70 enemy structures and 16 junks were destroyed; and 24 other structures and eight other junks or sampans were damaged. In addition, 16 Viet Cong were killed. Four Swift boat personnel were wounded during the month and, on the 25th, PCF 97 was sunk by enemy fire.

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With the start of the dark-of-the-moon period on 4 June, extra flights were conducted by the surveillance aircraft of MARKET TIME. Augmenting the regular flights, two special flights were flown each night from 2200 until 0500. The flights concentrated on highly-suspect areas along the coast and a continuous plot on all contacts was maintained.

#### First Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the First Coastal Zone detected 52,000 junks and sampans during June. In addition, the Swift boats and Coast Guard cutters provided exfiltration patrols and gunfire support for two ground operations as well as participating in two search and rescue missions.

On 4 June, while conducting a "psywar" mission just south of Cape Batangan, PCF 76 received automatic-weapons fire from the beach. The Swift boat returned the fire with 81-mm. mortars, initiating a secondary explosion. Then a forward air controller (FAC) arrived on the scene and spotted for additional mortar fire; the fire destroyed nine structures and killed three Viet Cong (probables). Three of the PCF's crew received slight wounds during the engagement.

On the night of 6 June, USCGC POINT DUME detected three junks near the surfline, 15 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. When the cutter illuminated the junks, they dispersed and attempted to evade. The cutter then fired on one of the junks, damaging the craft and forcing the Viet Cong to abandon it at the surfline.

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The extent of the Viet Cong's casualties was undetermined.

On the 7th, USCGC POINT ORIENT provided assistance to U.S. Army Task Force Oregon elements under heavy enemy fire 85 miles south of Danang. The cutter's gunfire support suppressed the Viet Cong fire, and destroyed two structures and damaged three others.

On 10 June, 60 miles southeast of Danang, three PCFs and USS KRETCHMER (DER 329) conducted a roundup operation off Cape Batangan in response to a request from a Republic of Korea ground unit operating in the area. Thirty junks and their 120 occupants were detained during the mission.

At 0130 on the 18th, PCF 14 stopped, searched and detained an unlighted junk 25 miles southeast of Danang. Among the hidden items found on board by the PCF's crew were 25 vials of glucose serum, 25 vials of streptomycin, 24 vials of vitamins, and seven bags of rice marked with the U.S.A.I.D. stamp.

On 20 June, an explosion on board a U.S. landing craft unloading ammunition at Duc Pho blew crew members into the water and started a fire which spread to the nearby ammunition supply point. Four MARKET TIME craft--PCFs 49, 51, 54 and 60--were dispatched to the scene to conduct search and rescue operations. Despite a series of secondary explosions which hurtled shrapnel as far as 1,500 yards from the beach, the PCFs moved in and rescued 11 persons from the water. PCF 49 sustained minor hull damage during the mission, and two of the crew were wounded, one seriously.

On the 20th a Navy helicopter, USCGC POINT DUME and PCF 99



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participated in a search for the four occupants of a helicopter from USS TRIPOLI (LPH 10) which had crashed 20 miles southeast of Danang. Two survivors were rescued by the helicopter during the mission. Another MARKET TIME unit, USS PLEDGE (MSO 492), located the wreckage of the sunken helicopter; the hulk was subsequently recovered by salvage craft from Danang.

At 0700 on 28 June, PCF 79 detected a basket boat attempting to evade to the beach just north of Cape Batangan. The occupant of the boat ignored the PCF's warning siren, then turned and submitted to an inspection after warning shots were fired. The boatman was found to have false identification papers and was detained for interrogation.

#### Second Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units patrolling the Second Coastal Zone during June detected 41,000 junks and sampans. In addition, the patrol craft participated in a search and rescue mission and provided exfiltration patrols for two ground operations.

On the night of 3 June PCF 45 detected a fire fight ashore near the mouth of the Luy River, 50 miles southwest of Cam Ranh Bay. When the Swift boat approached to investigate it found that Vietnamese troops guarding a bridge were under attack by a Viet Cong unit. The PCF then provided illumination fire for the Government unit, and the assistance helped repel the enemy attack.

During the evening of 22 June, 15 miles north of Nha Trang, PCFs 47 and 52 provided covering fire for units of Coastal Group

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A freighter in the Second Coastal Zone is searched by the crew of  
USS GALLUP (PG 85).

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25 attempting to withdraw under fire after having killed four Viet Cong in an ambush. The Swift boats' fire on the Viet Cong positions suppressed the enemy outburst and enabled the Vietnamese units to withdraw successfully.

From 2200 on 22 June until 1500 on 23 June, USCGC POINT WELCOME and units of the Vietnamese Navy's Coastal Groups 27 and 28 acted as a seaward blocking force for a U.S. FIRST Air Cavalry Division operation, 65 miles south of Nha Trang. During the operation, the naval units detained one suspect and detected and radioed the position of several persons hiding in caves near the beach. The ground units subsequently searched the caves and detained 40 male suspects.

On the 24th, PCF 88 detained seven persons in two junks, 45 miles north of Qui Nhon. The detainees were turned over to a FIRST Air Cavalry unit conducting operations ashore. During subsequent interrogation, the occupants of the junks admitted being members of a Viet Cong medical team.

On 24 June PCF 59 assisted a drifting passenger junk, 35 miles north of Qui Nhon; the junk's 125 passengers had been adrift for about 24 hours. The PCF's crew provided the occupants with food, water and medical assistance, and repaired the junk's inoperative engine.

#### Third Coastal Zone

MARKET TIME units in the Third Coastal Zone conducted numerous out gunfire missions during the month, in addition to detecting



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over 8,000 junks and sampans.

On 3 June, while on patrol near the mouth of the Co Chien River, USCGC POINT JEFFERSON detected three sampans and five suspects near the beach. As the cutter approached to investigate, the suspects abandoned the sampans and fled. The Vietnamese Sector Control then requested that the cutter destroy the sampans. While firing on the sampans, the cutter received small-arms fire from the tree line behind the beach. The WPB's fire damaged two of the sampans and destroyed the other. There were no U.S. casualties.

On the 11th, while investigating a spotter aircraft's report of enemy ground activity 45 miles southwest of Vung Tau, USCGC POINT WHITE received automatic-weapons and small-arms fire from Viet Cong shore emplacements. The cutter's return fire initiated a secondary explosion and silenced the enemy positions. There were no U.S. casualties.

On 12 June PCF 98 responded to a spotter aircraft's report that several junks were off-loading materiel onto the beach, 27 miles southwest of Vung Tau. Upon reaching the scene, the Swift boat opened fire on the enemy, initiating a large secondary explosion; the PCF's fire also destroyed one of the junks, and damaged one junk, two sampans and five structures. There were no U.S. casualties.

On the 17th a forward air controller sighted eight heavily-loaded, camouflaged sampans 55 miles southwest of Vung Tau. USCGC

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POINT PARTRIDGE responded to the spotter's request for naval gunfire and took the sampans under fire, destroying one and damaging two others.

Two days later, POINT PARTRIDGE answered another call for gunfire support after a spotter aircraft detected considerable enemy activity in a Viet Cong-controlled region, 60 miles southwest of Vung Tau. Following the cutter's saturation fire, the forward air controller reported that 95 per cent of the target area had been struck, and that the gunfire had destroyed two structures, damaged four others, and initiated two secondary fires.

On the morning of 25 June PCF 97, patrolling 500 yards off the mouth of the Ganh Hao River, 45 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point, came under heavy automatic-weapons and recoilless-rifle fire from Viet Cong shore positions. While returning the intense enemy fire, the Swift boat was struck at the waterline by a recoilless-rifle round which tore a three- by four-foot hole in the hull and wounded the Officer in Charge. The PCF flooded rapidly and turned seaward in order to concentrate on the damaged area. However, all attempts to arrest the flooding failed, and the Swift boat eventually sank in 27 feet of water. The entire crew was rescued by PCF 26. Salvage operations to recover PCF 97 began the next day.

On the 25th, in two separate incidents, gunfire from PCFs 26 and 98 coordinated by spotter aircraft struck the Viet Cong shore positions which had attacked PCF 97. The aircraft subsequently

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reported that the gunfire killed 12 Viet Cong, and destroyed several bunkers and two sampans. There were no U.S. casualties.

#### Fourth Coastal Zone

In the course of conducting patrols along the west coast of the Ca Mau Peninsula and the area surrounding Phu Quoc Island, MARKET TIME units in the Fourth Coastal Zone detected almost 8,000 junks and sampans during June. The units also furnished gunfire support on several occasions.

On 7 June USCGC BERING STRAIT provided gunfire support for Vietnamese ground forces under attack from an estimated two companies of Viet Cong, 30 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The cutter's fire helped repel the enemy assault, and destroyed one structure and damaged two others.

On the 10th, USCGC POINT MARONE provided gunfire support for a forward air controller under fire, 60 miles north of Ca Mau Point. The FAC subsequently reported that the WPB's fire sank three enemy sampans, destroyed one structure, and damaged five other structures.

Later that day a spotter aircraft came under fire from two sampans which were off-loading supplies, 55 miles east of An Thoi. PCF 05 answered the aircraft's request for gunfire support and subsequently destroyed the two sampans and the contraband.

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#### MARKET TIME UNITS

During June aircraft from four patrol squadrons provided air

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surveillance for Operation MARKET TIME. A detachment of Patrol Squadron 42 flew SP-2A Neptunes from Tan Son Nhut Air Base and a detachment of Patrol Squadron 1 flew Neptunes from Cam Ranh Bay. Meanwhile, a detachment of Patrol Squadron 16 flew P-3A Orion aircraft from the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, and a Patrol Squadron 46 detachment flew Orions from U Tapao, Thailand.

On 16 June a new PCF patrol unit, Coastal Division 16, was activated on a provisional basis at Chu Lai. The Division's composition was formed by reassigning eight Swift boats and 12 crews from Danang's Coastal Division 12, and the four Swift boats and six crews from Coastal Division 14 at Qui Nhon. The new Division was designated Task Unit 115.1.8.

During the month the following U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ships operated as MARKET TIME units during the indicated inclusive dates:

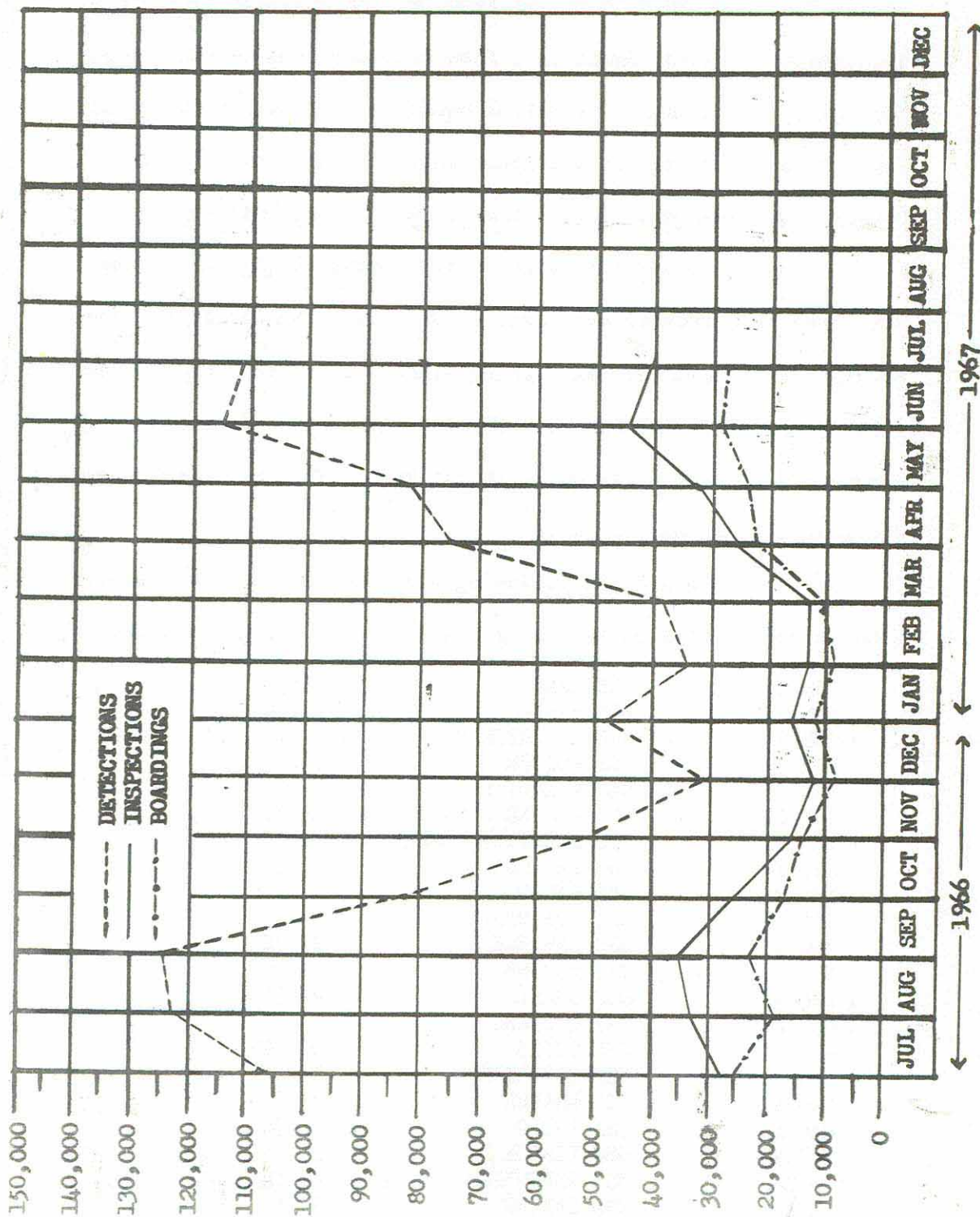
DER 251	USS CAMP	25-30
DER 328	USS FINCH	16-30
DER 393	USS HAVERFIELD	1-25
DER 331	USS KOINER	1-2
DER 397	USS WILHOITE	1-16
1ST 601	USS CLARKE COUNTY	15-30
1ST 1123	USS SEDGWICK COUNTY	1-15
MSC 198	USS PEACOCK	11-30
MSC 205	USS VIREO	1-11
MSO 488	USS CONQUEST	1-29
MSO 437	USS ENHANCE	29-30
MSO 438	USS ESTEEM	1-29
MSO 439	USS ESCAL	29-30
MSO 489	USS GALLANT	1-29
MSO 447	USS GUIDE	29-30
MSO 448	USS ILLUSIVE	1-29
MSO 490	USS LEADER	29-30
MSO 458	USS LUCID	29-30
MSO 492	USS PLEDGE	1-29
PG 84	USS ASHEVILLE	4-12, 15-21, 25-30
PG 85	USS GALLUP	5-13



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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



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WHEC 381	USCGC BARATARIA	1-10, 18-30
WHEC 382	USCGC BERING STRAIT	3-27
WHEC 387	USCGC GRESHAM	1-3, 27-30
WHEC 378	USCGC HALF MOON	10-30
WHEC 380	USCGC YAKUTAT	1-18

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### MARKET TIME STATISTICAL SUMMARY June 1967

## 1. U.S. Ships/Craft:

	<u>DER</u>	<u>MSO</u>	<u>MSC</u>	<u>WPB</u>	<u>PCF</u>	<u>IST</u>	<u>PG</u>	<u>WHEC</u>
Daily average number of craft on patrol	2	5	1	14	46	1	1	3

## 2. U.S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD - DAY	<u>51,717</u>	NIGHT	<u>58,336</u>	<u>111,805</u>
	STEEL - DAY	<u>902</u>	NIGHT	<u>850</u>	
TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD - DAY	<u>19,117</u>	NIGHT	<u>21,416</u>	<u>41,583</u>
	STEEL - DAY	<u>524</u>	NIGHT	<u>526</u>	
TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD - DAY	<u>16,024</u>	NIGHT	<u>11,079</u>	<u>27,243</u>
	STEEL - DAY	<u>109</u>	NIGHT	<u>31</u>	
TOTAL DETAINED	JUNKS	<u>82</u>	PEOPLE	<u>869</u>	

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## OPERATION STABLE DOOR

Operation STABLE DOOR patrols detected 38,536 junks and sampans during June; 7,217 of these were inspected. In addition, of the 4,175 craft boarded, 31 were detained along with 140 persons.

During the month four more 45-foot harbor patrol picket boats were assigned to STABLE DOOR units, two at Qui Nhon and one each at Nha Trang and Cam Ranh Bay. The assignments brought to eight the total number of 45-footers in country.

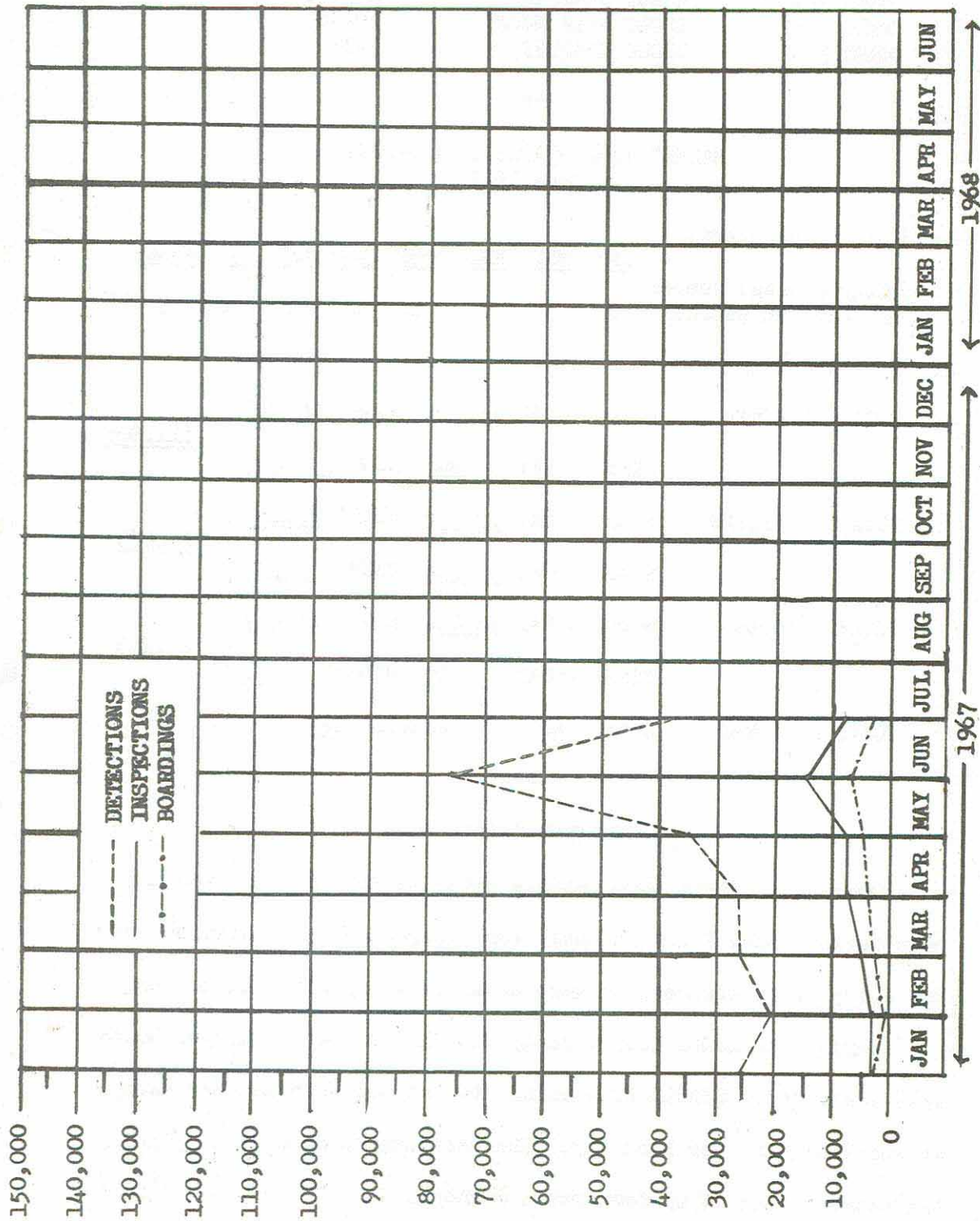
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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS



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In June Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 1 (IUWU 1) at Vung Tau-- composed of seven officers and 125 enlisted men--provided surveillance for a daily average of 25 ships anchored in the harbor. The STABLE DOOR patrols resulted in the detention of one junk and 18 suspects.

At Cam Ranh Bay IUWU 2 (seven officers and 152 enlisted men) detained two junks and 18 persons while providing surveillance for a daily average of 34 ships in the harbor.

IUWU 3 at Qui Nhon, consisting of six officers and 123 enlisted men, provided harbor defense for a daily in-port average of 26 ships. The patrols detained nine junks and 13 persons, either for improper identification papers or suspicious activity.

At Nha Trang, the five officers and 95 enlisted men of IUWU 4 detained 19 junks and 91 suspects, and provided surveillance for a daily average of 12 ships in port.

On 12 June, in Qui Nhon's inner harbor, a STABLE DOOR patrol investigated two sampans hidden in the brush. The sampans had been spotted by a U.S. Army helicopter, and were found to contain ammunition and Viet Cong documents.

In a search and rescue mission conducted on 25 June, a STABLE DOOR LCPL rescued the ten occupants of an Army helicopter which had crashed in Nha Trang's harbor. Four of the survivors were injured and required medical evacuation.

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#### RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE (TASK FORCE 117)

During June the Riverine Assault Force demonstrated its versatility as an instrument of delta warfare. Operating with the Second Brigade, U.S. NINTH Infantry Division to form the Mobile Riverine Force, units of the RAF provided integral, diversified support in a series of search and destroy operations.

During the initial phase of Operation CONCORDIA I, conducted from 19 to 21 June in Long An province, the riverine assault craft repeatedly furnished close gunfire support to Army troops hard-pressed by entrenched enemy units. Throughout the operation the craft also served effectively as mobile command posts, supply carriers, and casualty-clearing stations.

The various riverine missions received an important assist during the month from the newly-activated Riverine Survey Team. The 13-man team, composed of U.S. Marines and civilians from the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office, conducted extensive hydrographic surveys which provided needed navigational data in support of tactical requirements.

#### Operations in the IV Corps Tactical Zone

On 1 June the Mobile Riverine Base moved from its anchorage at Vung Tau and transited to Dong Tam via the My Tho River. For the next nine days Riverine Assault Force units conducted security patrols, troop lifts, and assault landings designed to refine joint doctrine and techniques with embarked elements of the 2nd Brigade.

On 6 June ATC 112-3 was damaged by a water mine in the Xang

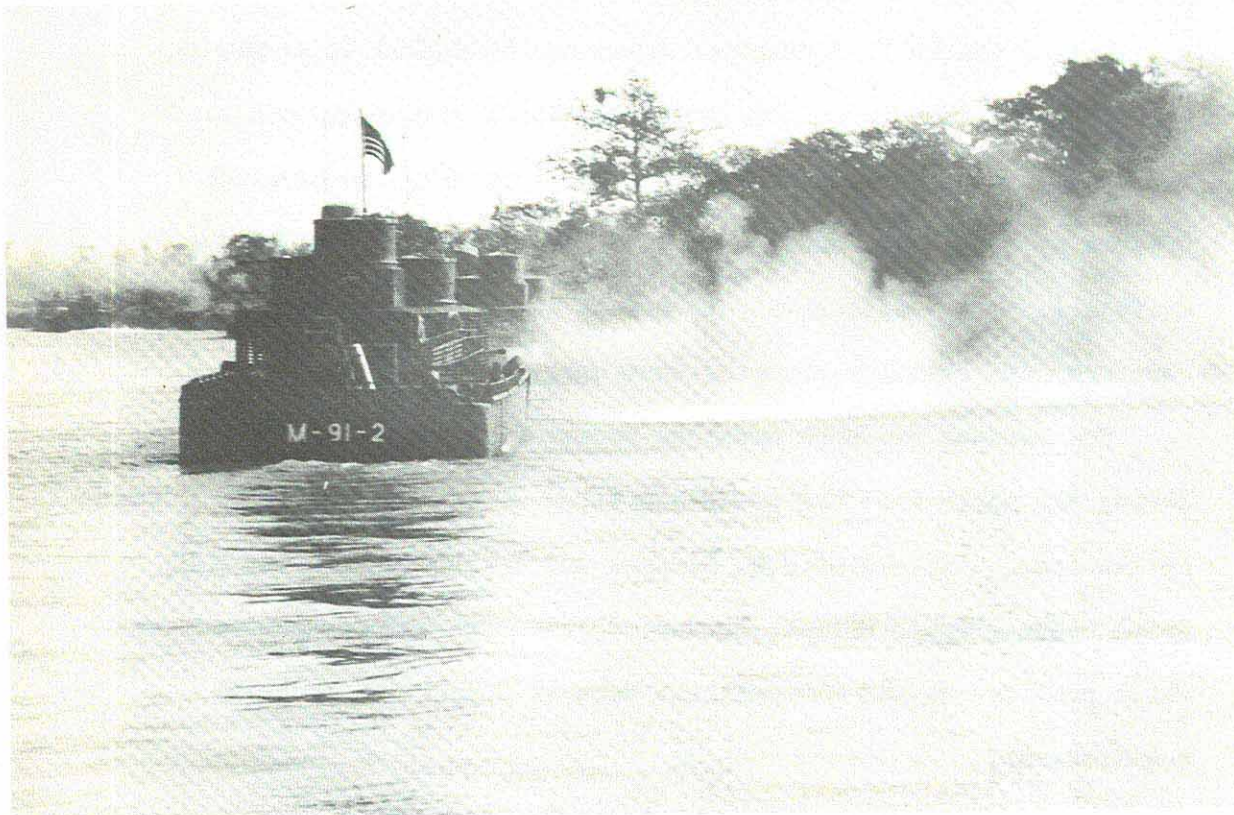
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Units of the Mobile Riverine Force exchange fire with enemy positions during Operation CORONADO I.

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Canal, just west of Dong Tam. The mine's explosion blew the port .50 caliber machine-gun mount and its gunner over the side, and caused extensive damage to the troop carrier's hull and engines. The gunner was rescued by an ATC following astern, and the damaged craft was subsequently towed to Dong Tam for repairs.

On 7 and 8 June, the Mobile Riverine Force conducted Operation CORONADO I in Dinh Tuong province, 18 miles west of My Tho. Shortly after noon on the 7th, elements of Task Unit 117.1.1 made contact with a reinforced enemy platoon near Ba Rai creek. During the ensuing exchange, four naval personnel were wounded. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

On 11 June the nucleus of the Mobile Riverine Force got underway for Nha Be. River Division 112, meanwhile, remained at the base in Dong Tam and conducted local security patrols and troop-lift missions throughout the month. No major contact with the enemy occurred in this area.

Operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone  
and the III Corps Tactical Zone

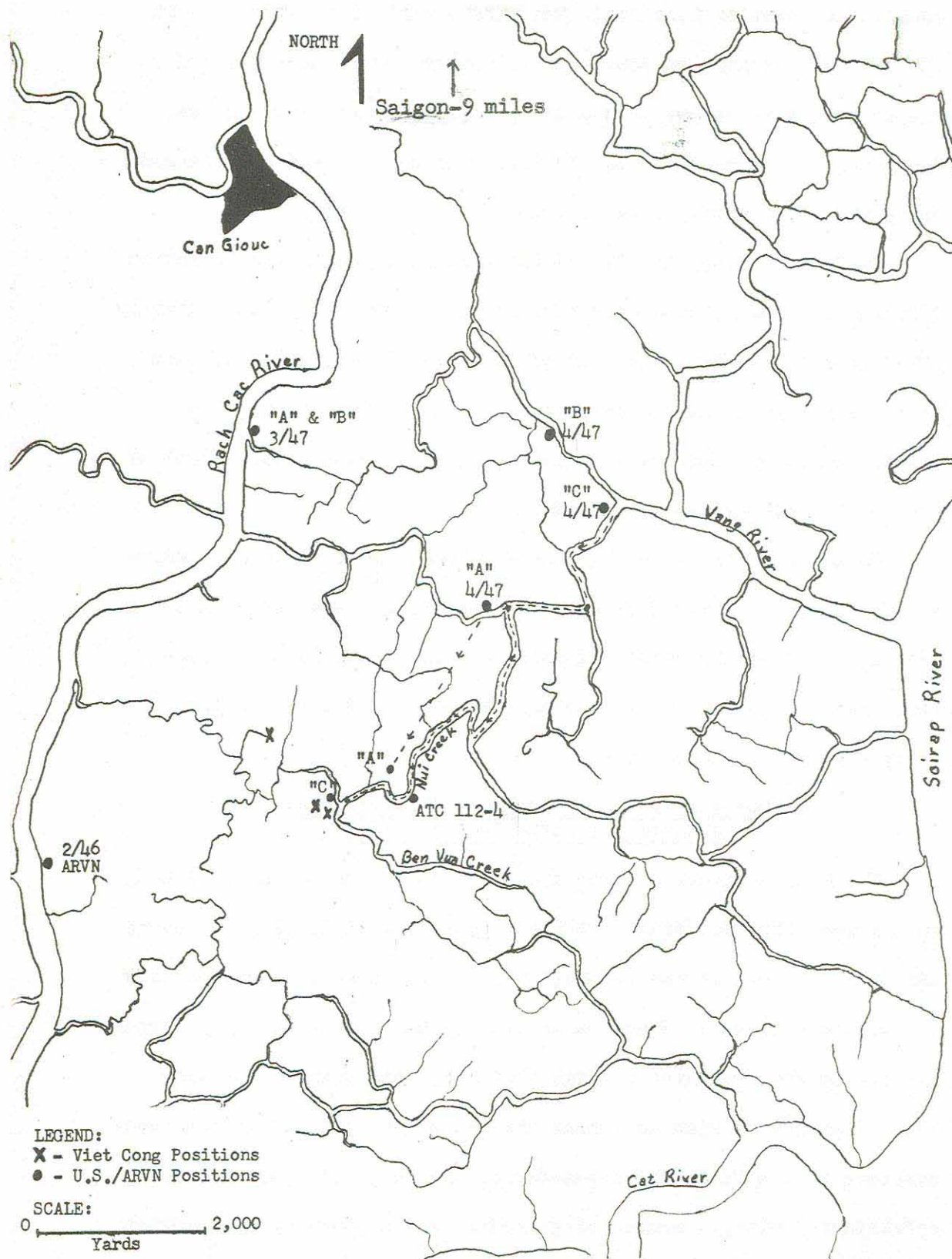
The Mobile Riverine Force anchored off Nha Be on the 12th and, in the week that followed, conducted Operation GREAT BEND, a search and destroy sweep in the northern part of the Rung Sat Special Zone and adjacent areas in Bien Hoa province. On 16 June the Army troops discovered and destroyed a large Viet Cong base camp in the Nhon Trach district of Bien Hoa, near the suspected location of the headquarters of the Viet Cong commander of the Rung Sat Special Zone. A "claymore" mine, a number of grenades, and a quantity of assorted



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# 19 JUNE INCIDENT DURING OPERATION CONCORDIA I



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documents and materials were seized during the mission.

Upon completion of Operation GREAT BEND on 18 June, the Mobile Riverine Force shifted to an anchorage near the confluence of the Vam Co and Soirap rivers, and commenced Operation CONCORDIA I.

On the morning of the 19th three companies of the 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry were landed on the banks of Van Creek, two and one-half miles southeast of Can Giouc. Meanwhile, the 2nd Battalion of the Vietnamese Army (ARVN) 46th Infantry Regiment was landed three and one-half miles southwest of the 4/47th units. At the same time, two U.S. companies of the 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry were landed one mile south of Can Giouc. In effect, the three landings formed a triangle. After all the troops were ashore, the Riverine Assault Force units proceeded to blocking stations.

At 0900, intelligence obtained from a captured Viet Cong village chief indicated that three enemy companies were deployed near the base of the triangle, approximately midway between the 4/47th and ARVN positions. Accordingly, about 1100, C Company of the 4/47th was re-embarked by the assault craft and moved to the junction of Nui and Ben Via creeks. Almost immediately the troops came under heavy fire from entrenched enemy positions, and were pinned down in an open stretch of rice paddies. Eight hundred yards away, A Company of the 4/47th (which had converged from the northeast) also came under intense fire. Responding to a request for gunfire support, the Riverine Assault Force units opened fire on enemy emplacements in the tree lines flanking the paddies; the accurate 20-mm. and 40-mm.

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machine-gun fire, together with 81-mm. mortar fire, reduced the pressure on the hard-pressed troops.

The action continued well into evening, and the sustained naval gunfire helped disrupt the enemy forces. Throughout the engagement, the movements of the naval units and the troops ashore were coordinated between the officer in tactical command of the naval units (Commander River Squadron NINE) and the operations officer of the 4/47th, both of whom were embarked in River Division 92's command-control boat. The coordination enabled the OTC to deliver close gunfire support, maneuver naval units quickly in order to block enemy escape attempts, and reembark and land troops expeditiously to meet the demands of the situation ashore.

During the battle certain ATCs resupplied the troops and naval units with food, water and ammunition; in addition, other troop carriers served as medical aid and casualty-clearing stations. On several occasions a number of craft were hit by recoilless-rifle and B-40 rocket fire. One boat, ATC 112-4, was struck below the waterline by a rocket, forcing the craft to beach. After emergency patching had been completed, the craft returned to the riverine base under its own power.

There were numerous acts of individual heroism on the part of naval personnel. In one instance, two crew members of ATC 92-7, Boatswain's Mate Third Class C.O. JOHNSON, USN, and Engineman Second Class M.W. DOLEZAL, USN, dashed 60 yards through heavy enemy fire to rescue a wounded infantryman who was pinned down in a rice

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paddy. In another instance, Boatswain's Mate Third Class J.C. NAPLES, USN, and Seaman S.G. YATES, USN, rescued a wounded infantryman after he had jumped into Nui creek to avoid capture.

The initial phase of Operation CONCORDIA I ended on the evening of 21 June. During the three-day period 255 Viet Cong were killed. On the U.S. side, 46 soldiers were killed and 15 sailors were wounded. Throughout CONCORDIA I, seriously wounded personnel were evacuated to USS BENEWAH (APB 35) and USS COLLETON (APB 36) as well as to the medical facility at Nha Be. The short transit time between the battle area and the barracks ships helped save a number of lives.

On 22 June Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam sent the following message to Commander Task Force 117 and the Commanding Officer, Second Brigade, U.S. NINTH Infantry Division:

THE PERFORMANCE AND GALLANTRY OF YOUR MEN DURING OPERATION CONCORDIA I WERE A SOURCE OF PRIDE AND GRATIFICATION TO ALL OF US. YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY THE AGGRESSIVENESS, ALACRITY AND BOLDNESS CONSISTENTLY DISPLAYED BY YOU, YOUR OFFICERS AND MEN. THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE HAS PROVED TO BE THE POTENT FLEXIBLE FIGHTING TEAM SO VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CAMPAIGN IN THE DELTA. PLEASE PASS A WELL DONE TO ALL HANDS FOR THE SUCCESS OF CONCORDIA I AND MAY YOU HAVE CONTINUED GOOD HUNTING. RADM VETH SENDS.

During the remainder of June the Mobile Riverine Force remained at the junction of the Vam Co and Soirap rivers, conducting operations in the southeastern districts of Long An province. No major contact with the enemy occurred during this period.

#### Riverine Assault Force Units

With the arrival of two monitors on 12 June, the number of LCM conversions reached its programmed strength of 68. Two large harbor

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tugs, YTB-784 and YTB-785, joined the Riverine Assault Force during the month. The tugs were assigned to tow APLs and ammi-pontoons, and to perform other required towing services. On 16 June, all assault craft which had been on loan from the Vietnamese Navy were returned to their regular units.

During the month a Riverine Survey Team was activated and assigned to the Riverine Assault Force. Composed of 11 U.S. Marines and two civilians from the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office, the team was tasked with collecting hydrographic data and conducting surveys of inland waterways in support of RAF operations.

As of 30 June Riverine Assault Force units were deployed as follows:

RIVDIV 111	USS BENEWAH (APB 35)
RIVDIV 92	USS COLLETON (APB 36)
RIVDIV 112/RIVFLOT ONE Detachment*	Dong Tam
RIVDIV 91	APL-26

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\*A detachment of two officers and four enlisted men who are permanently stationed at Dong Tam in order to provide administrative support for the River Flotilla when the commander is absent from Dong Tam.

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U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

Enemy attempts to disrupt waterborne traffic in the Cua Viet approaches to Dong Ha continued during June. On 12 June, the Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPACT) LST ramp site at the entrance to the Cua Viet was attacked by an enemy force employing rockets and artillery fire; about 200 rounds landed in the area during the 50-minute barrage. At the nearby Cua Viet fuel farm, three 10,000-gallon fuel bladders were destroyed and two others were damaged during the attack, resulting in the loss of 45,000 gallons of diesel fuel. The fuel storage facility was restored to an operational status later that day. There were no casualties to naval personnel.

On 29 June USS COCONINO COUNTY (LST 603) was mined while discharging cargo at the Cua Viet LST ramp. The explosion, which critically wounded one of the crew, tore a three- by nine-foot hole in the ship's bottom, and led to the flooding of a generator room and the main and auxiliary engine rooms.

Three hours later a second explosion occurred about 15 feet off the ship's starboard quarter. The blast loosened the ship's stern-tube packing, resulting in moderate flooding of the port and starboard shaft alleys. That same day, after all cargo had been off-loaded and temporary patches installed over the damaged areas of the ship's hull, COCONINO COUNTY was towed to Danang for interim repairs.

On 15 June Cargo Handling Battalion TWO, composed of three officers and 71 enlisted men, arrived in Danang to assist in various cargo

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processing operations, and to train and supervise other personnel as required. The battalion's presence was designed to help reduce the impact on cargo handling operations occasioned by the recent sizable turnover in NAVSUPPACT personnel. On the 17th, CHB-2 assumed responsibility for cargo operations at the Tien Sha LST ramp and, in addition, provided eight hatch teams to off-load ammunition from certain ships at anchor.

During June the volume of cargo processed by NAVSUPPACT again surpassed previous levels. At the Port of Danang, the 83,486 short tons of cargo back-loaded for transshipment to other ports was the highest monthly total to date. And the month's throughput for Danang reached an unprecedented 228,212 short tons. The combined throughput for all I Corps ports also reached a new high--326,701 short tons.

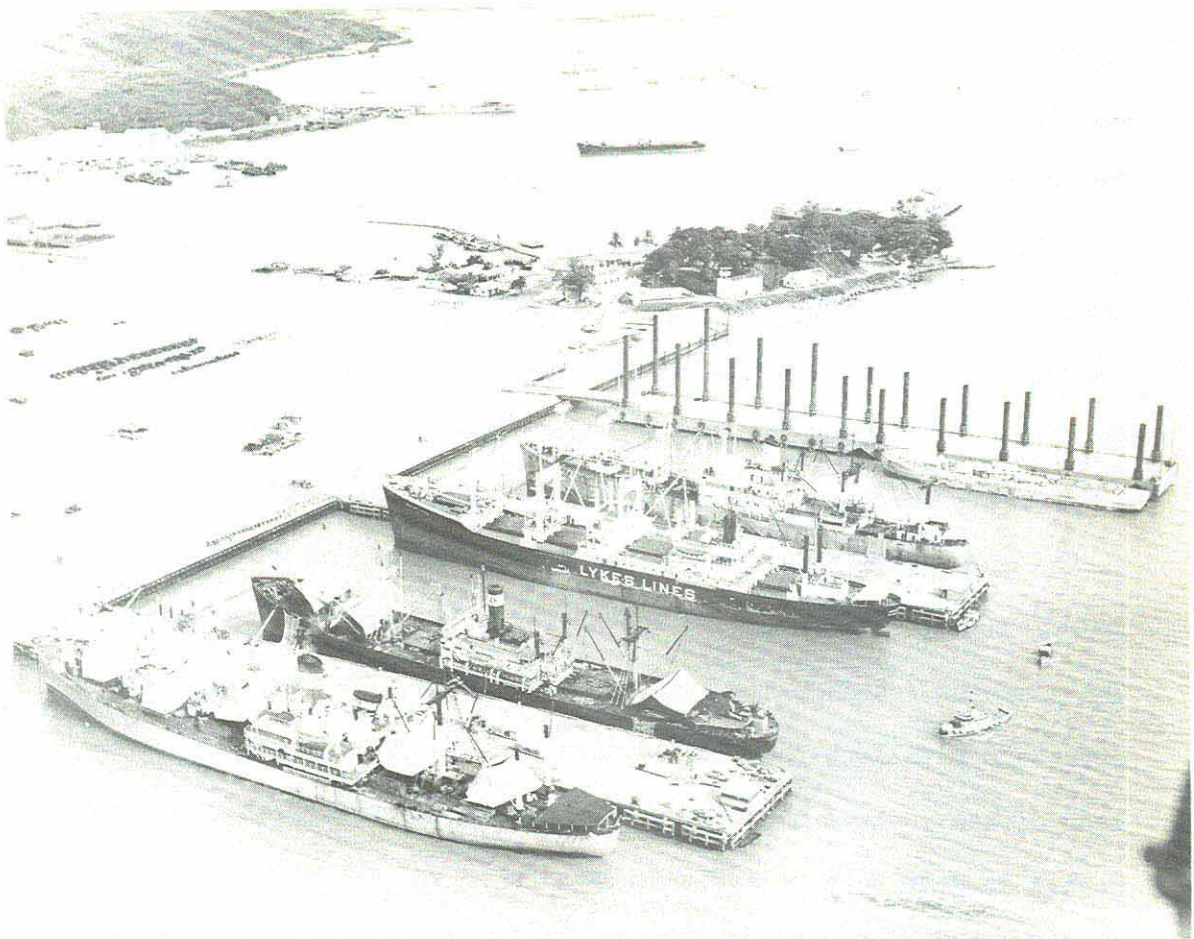
Class II and IV supply support continued to be generally excellent. Net supply requisition effectiveness at Danang increased from May's 80 percent to 93 percent in June. A 93 percent effectiveness figure was also recorded at Chu Lai.

The general level of Class I supplies received and expended during the month continued to rise. On 30 June the quantity of C-rations (individual combat meals) available totaled 7,191,142 meals which, based upon the THIRD Marine Amphibious Force's existing requirements, constituted a 24-day supply.

In June the recently completed engine shop at NAVSUPPACT's small-craft repair facility in Danang became operational. Nine diesel engines and four LCM-8 engine banks were overhauled during



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Commercial ships moored at Danang's deep-water piers.

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the month by the new shop. The repair facility also completed the overhaul of an LCM-6 and an LCPL and, by month's end, had begun de-watering and repairing COCONINO COUNTY. In addition, the facility's floating dry dock (AFDL 23) handled 56 diverse craft during the month.

The number of craft assigned to NAVSUPPACT increased with the arrival of an LCM-8 on 3 June and two LCUs on 29 June. Also, two ammi fuel-barges arrived during the month, each with a 30,000-gallon capacity. The barges were earmarked to replace the "bladder-bearing" LCM-8s at Hue.

On 12 June personnel of Amphibious Construction Battalion ONE completed the installation of a 6-inch POL line at Chu Lai for use while the existing 8-inch and 12-inch lines were being extended to seaward. The 1,600 yard extension of the 8-inch line was completed on 25 June.

During the month traffic restrictions between East and West Danang were eased considerably by the completion, on 25 June, of a second Danang River bridge. The narrow, older bridge had become the scene of frequent and serious congestion. The new, two-lane structure parallels the first bridge and will facilitate the movement of heavy steel containers when Danang's containership service\* begins in late July or early August.

On 29 June the dredge THUBON completed operations to remove two sandbars which, during periods of low water, had impeded craft

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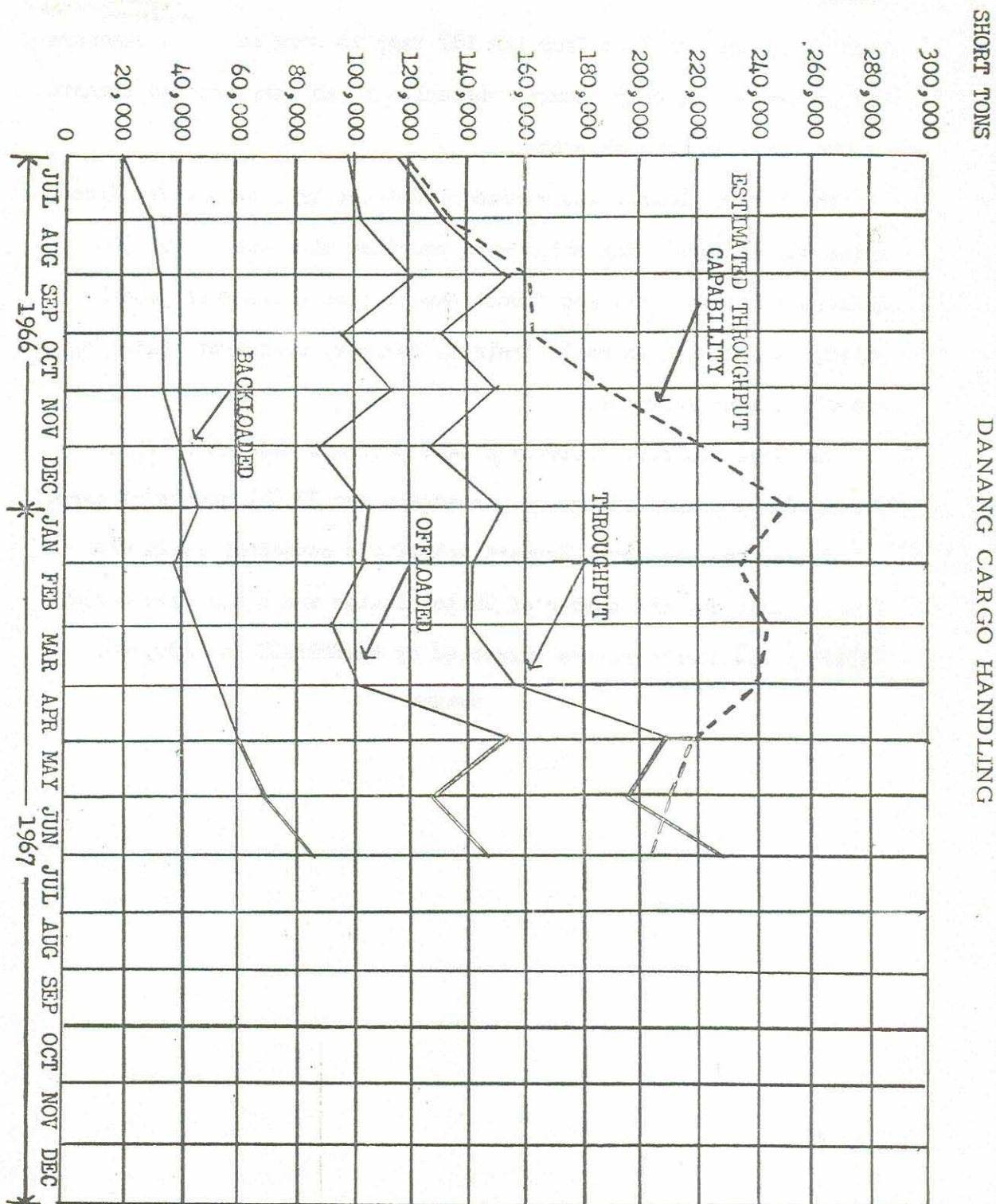
\*The movement of cargo in large steel containers by ships specially configured and equipped for that purpose. The containers, ships, and certain associated services are furnished by a civilian contractor. Some of the principal advantages of the system are: improved speed and ease of loading and unloading; better cargo security against pilferage and weather damage; lower transportation and stevedoring costs.

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transiting the Cua Viet from the LST ramp to Dong Ha. The sandbars had presented the only natural obstacles to an unrestricted transit of the Cua Viet by lighterage.

The Port of Danang was visited 100 times by U.S. SEVENTH Fleet ships during June. The ships were provided with over 1,000,000 gallons of diesel fuel and almost two million gallons of potable water, in addition to mail, freight, courier, transient billeting and disbursing services.

The Naval Support Activity's C-47 aircraft made 15 flights during June, transporting 444 passengers and 29,911 pounds of cargo.

On 30 June the Naval Support Activity's personnel level was 7,947. That day the number of United States and other Free World Military Assistance Forces supported by NAVSUPPACT was 130,300.

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U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

During June Seabees attached to the Public Works Department of the Naval Support Activity, Saigon continued work on construction projects at certain Operation GAME WARDEN and Operation MARKET TIME support bases. The work performed by the Seabees was part of the continuing "Level of Effort" concept\* initiated in April.

At Nha Be, work on a new warehouse was 75 percent complete at month's end, and the construction of a dispensary, ammunition bunkers and several additional barracks was begun. In addition, three water-distillation units were placed in operation during June, helping to provide potable water for Nha Be's recently-completed galley and barracks.

At Vung Tau, the barracks and shop spaces for Light Helicopter Attack Squadron THREE were completed. At Vinh Long, the construction of a water tank was begun and a security fence was erected around the compound. Also, the renovation of the new living quarters was essentially complete on 30 June.

At Dong Tam, the construction of additional berthing and messing facilities sufficient to accommodate 500 personnel was completed during the month. At Can Tho (Binh Thuy), efforts to ready the new

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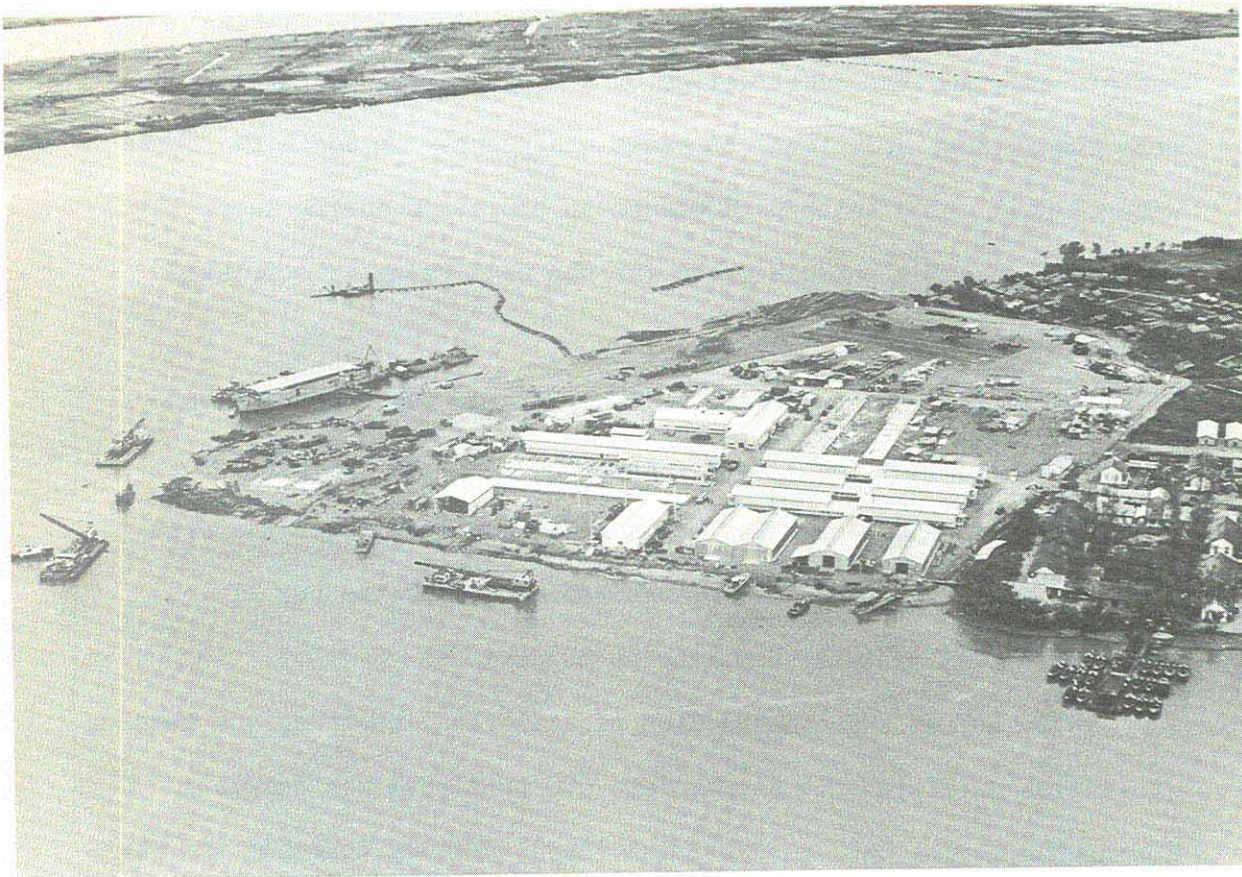
\*Under this concept major construction work is accomplished by civilian contractor personnel within a ceiling imposed by a fixed amount of available funds; minor construction work necessary for the completion of facilities is performed by military personnel. Because of limited funding and a corresponding reduction in the civilian work force, an increasing amount of construction work is being accomplished by military units as programmed contractor work is completed throughout South Vietnam.

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The U.S. Navy base at Nha Be.

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PBR support base for occupancy included continued work on the installation of galley and laundry equipment, and the construction of bunkers, watchtowers and a security fence. And, in June, the generator and water-treatment plants became operational.

At Cam Ranh Bay, work continued on the new naval communications building and a storage building for ordnance. At Qui Nhon, a new laundry building and a garbage shed were built, and ditches were dug around the generator buildings to provide some measure of control against the erosion caused by monsoon weather conditions.

In June the number of line items stocked by NAVSUPPACT Saigon increased by seven percent to a total of 28,591. However, 25 percent of the line items normally carried in stock had zero balances at the end of the month. A review of these items was in progress in order to isolate specific problem areas requiring corrective action.

During the month gross supply requisition effectiveness remained essentially stable at 39 percent. Net supply requisition effectiveness was 64 percent, six percent less than the figure recorded in May.

Meanwhile, the operational availability of MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN patrol boats continued to be generally excellent, ranging from 80 percent for WPBs and PCFs to 93 percent for PBRs. The availability of MSBs was 100 percent.

On 8 June USS HOLMES COUNTY (LST 836) was placed under the operational control of COMNAVSUPPACT Saigon and, on 14 June, began Delta resupply missions. Operating on a seven-day cycle, HOLMES

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COUNTY replenished Task Force 117's Mobile Riverine Base three times in June.

Throughout the month NAVSUPPACT's three C-47 aircraft remained in a grounded status. Two of the aircraft were in Japan awaiting the replacement of corroded wing attachments, and the third was at the Sangley Point Naval Station in the Philippines for a wing replacement. Employing a C-54, a C-47 and a US-2C provided by COMFAIRWESTPAC, the NAVSUPPACT aviation section transported 3,487 passengers and 157 short tons of cargo during the month.

At the same time, the ships and craft of NAVSUPPACT transported 915 short tons of cargo; an additional 105 short tons of cargo were transported overland by trucks.

On 30 June NAVSUPPACT's personnel strength was 1,952. The number of personnel provided logistic support by NAVSUPPACT headquarters in Saigon and its 11 detachments stood at 6,253 at month's end.

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### THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

On the 6th of June two Seabees were killed and 12 others were wounded when the U.S. Marines' camp at Khe Sanh, 25 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), was struck by enemy mortar and rocket fire.

Throughout the month a detachment of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR (MCB-4) at Khe Sanh constructed bunkers, artillery positions and ammunition pits for U.S. Marines defending Hill 881, which the Marines had captured from enemy forces in May. Meanwhile, a 75-man detachment from MCB-11 upgraded the Khe Sanh airfield.

During June personnel from six of the ten Seabee battalions in country began a major project (code-named ILLINOIS CITY) which includes making repairs to Route 1, the principal highway in the I Corps Tactical Zone. The Seabees were tasked with improving 139 miles of road north of Danang.

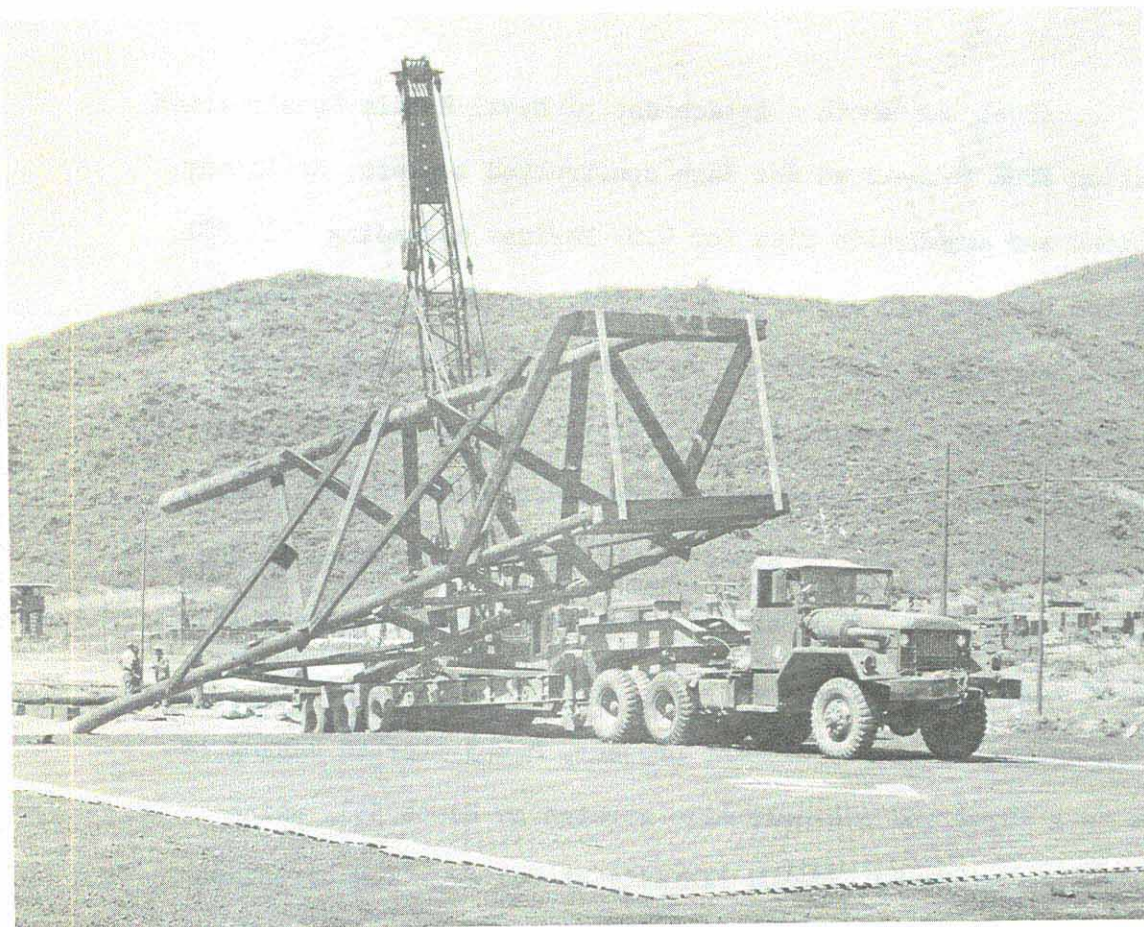
In another road improvement project, MCB-3 started making repairs to a three and one-half mile stretch of Route 551, which connects Hue with the LST-LCU facility at Col Co. The battalion also began work on a new road between Phu Bai (40 miles northwest of Danang) and the Seabees' base camp at Gia Le, five miles to the northwest. Meanwhile, MCB-62 laid rock and sprayed asphalt on 60 percent of the roads in the Phu Bai area.

At Red Beach, in Danang, MCB-1 built a liquid oxygen plant for Marine Air Group 11 and began work on a 500-man galley for the 2nd Battalion of the 7th Marine Regiment. A 64-man MCB-1 detachment

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One of the watchtowers constructed by MCB-4 during June.

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returned to Red Beach on 21 June from Dong Tam in the Delta, where the Seabees had constructed a number of facilities, including 25 hutches, a 500-man mess hall, and nine quonset huts.

At Camp Haskins, near Red Beach, MCB-74 relieved MCB-58 on 5 June and continued the work started by MCB-58 on a cantonment for the Marines' technical data system complex. The battalion also began upgrading the road leading to the Marines' light anti-aircraft missile site.

On 2 June MCB-7 relieved MCB-5 at Camp Adenir in Danang East, and began constructing several extensions to the Naval Support Activity's hospital. Meanwhile MCB-4, based at Danang West, constructed three observation towers, two along Route 5 and one at An Hoa, 50 miles southeast of Danang. In addition, the Special Forces Camp at Con Thien, 2,000 yards from the DMZ, was completed by MCB-4 during the month. The camp contains a 2,150-foot runway, four underground timber structures, 20 underground berthing and storage areas, and a 160-foot well.

At Danang's Black Rock Bay, MCB-133 completed the first increment of additional housing units for U.S. and Vietnamese military personnel, and built the first of three planned ammunition bunkers. The battalion also started work on a napalm storage area adjacent to the Danang airfield.

At Dong Ha, 10 miles south of the DMZ, MCB-11 completed five 50-foot observation towers in June as well as six Butler buildings. At Phu Bai, MCB-62 erected 18 Butler buildings.

At Chu Lai, 60 miles southeast of Danang, MCB-8 completed

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construction of a chapel and began work on an aircraft control tower for Marine Air Group 13. Elsewhere, personnel from Chu Lai-based MCB-71 began the construction phase of Project SEARCHLIGHT at the COMNAVFORV communications center in Saigon. Material shortages, owing to limited funding, impeded the project's progress.

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#### SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On 15 June the merchant ship COSMOS TRADER ran aground in the west side of the channel while proceeding to anchorage at Vung Tau. The ship, under charter by the U.S. Military Sea Transportation Service, was enroute to Saigon with dry cargo and crude oil. After initial attempts by tugs to pull the ship free proved unsuccessful, the Master requested salvage assistance.

Salvage operations were begun that day by Team 5 of Harbor Clearance Unit 1, with assistance provided by the COMNAVFORV salvage officer and Coastal Surveillance Force personnel from Vung Tau. Two U.S. SEVENTH Fleet craft, USS HITCHITI (ATF 103) and USS CURRENT (ARS 22) were dispatched to the scene and, on 18 June, the salvage officer of Service Group THREE arrived and assumed control of the operations.

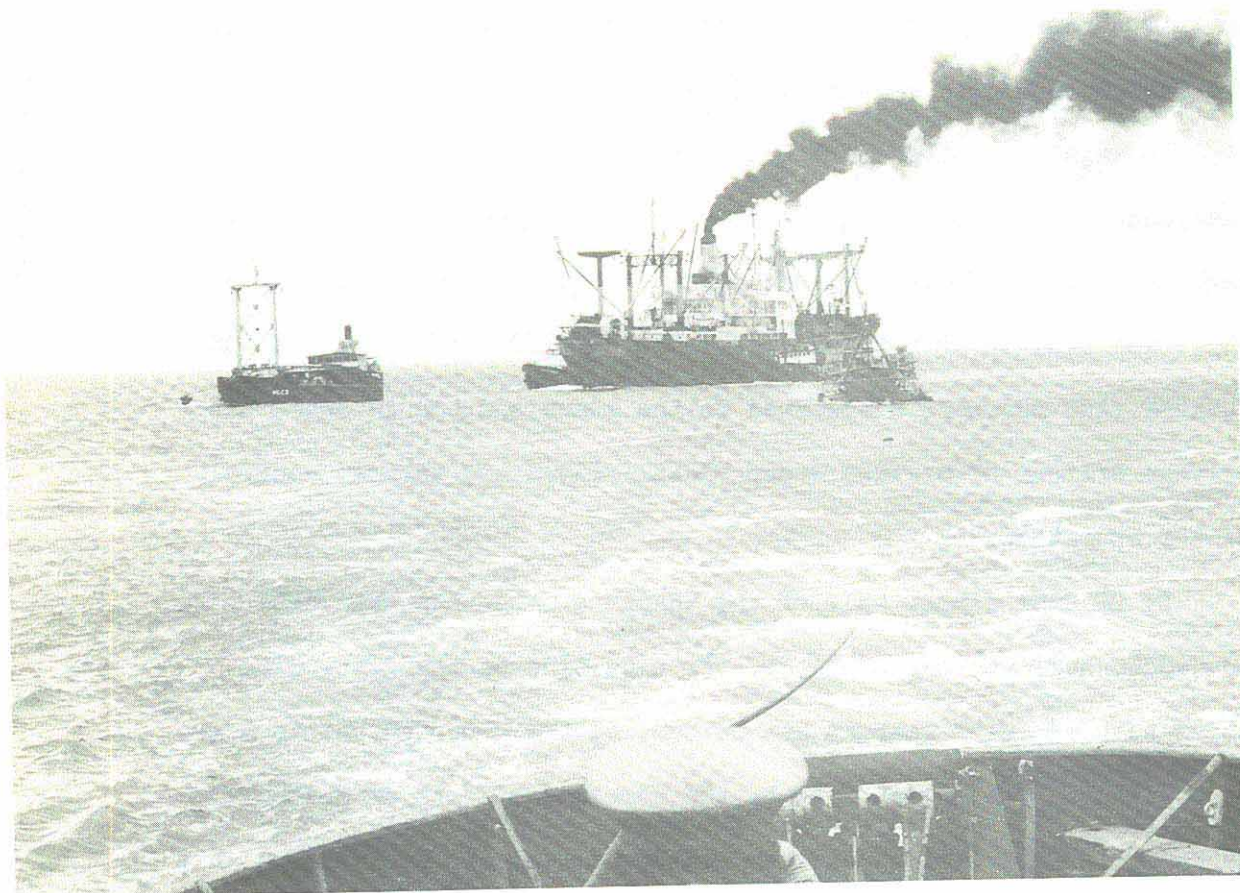
By 20 June almost half of the TRADER's cargo had been off-loaded to help restore buoyancy. At high tide on the 21st, with seven sets of beach gear in use to control the grounded ship's movements, TRADER was pulled free by the combined efforts of HITCHITI, CURRENT, two lift craft, and two commercial tugs. The merchant ship was then moved to an anchorage in the inner harbor, where salvage personnel removed a quantity of wire which had become fouled in the ship's screw. The salvage operation was terminated four days later.

On 25 June PCF 97, while on coastal patrol 45 miles northeast of Ca Mau Point, was struck in the starboard bow by enemy fire and subsequently sank in 27 feet of water.

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Pulling the COSMOS TRADER free.



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Team 5 of Harbor Clearance Unit 1 was dispatched to the area from Vung Tau and began salvage operations on the 26th. However, the team's light lift craft was unable to raise the PCF clear of the water. The team then stripped the sunken boat of all removable equipment, and remained on the scene to await the arrival of the SEVENTH Fleet's USS OAK HILL (LSD 7), which had a crane capable of lifting the PCF.

On 29 June USS COCONINO COUNTY (LST 603) was mined while discharging cargo at the Cua Viet LST ramp. The explosion tore a three- by nine-foot hole in the ship's bottom. A temporary patch was fabricated by the ship's crew and installed over the ruptured area with the assistance of divers provided by NAVSUPPACT Danang. Later that day, COCONINO COUNTY was towed to Danang for interim repairs preliminary to onward towing to Guam.

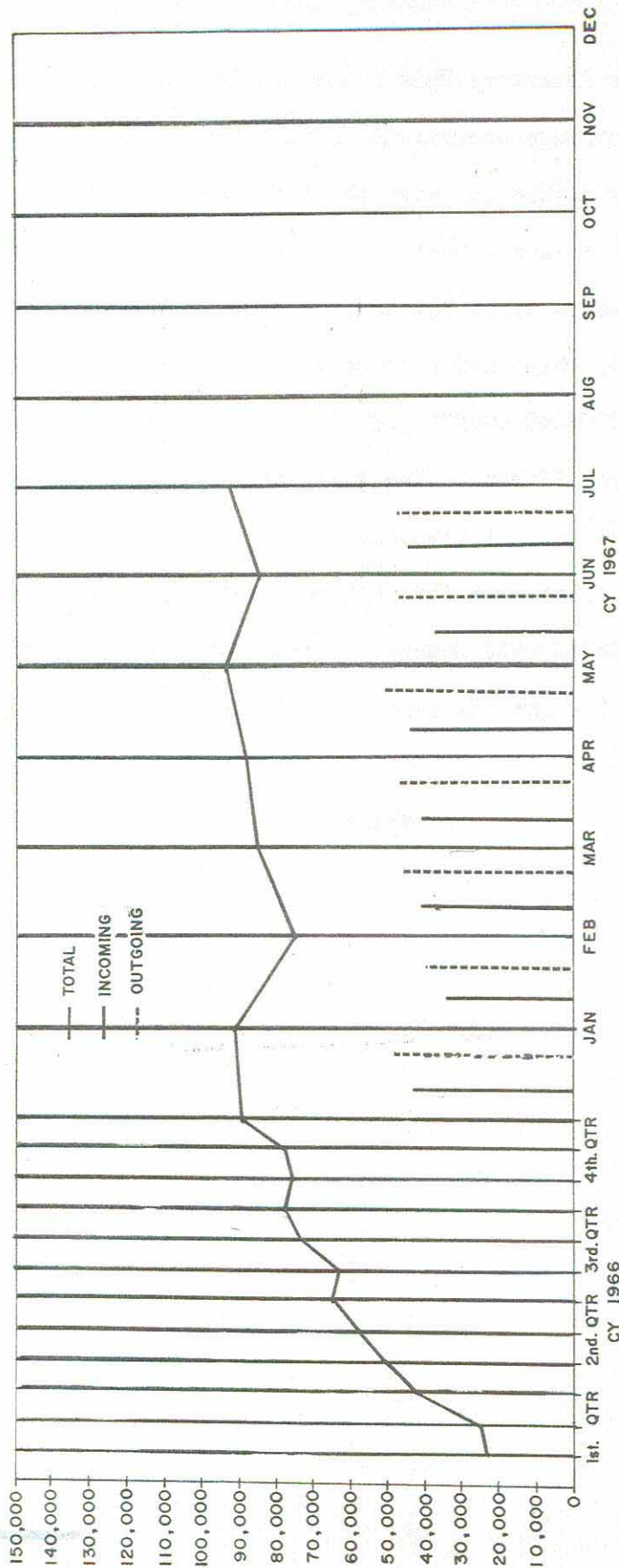
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# MONTHLY MESSAGE TRAFFIC



## PERCENT OF TOTAL

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
FLASH	1	1	1	1	1	.2	.5					
IMMEDIATE	21	20	19	18	16	17.5	18.1					
PRIORITY	60	61	63	63	66	64.6	62.9					
ROUTINE	18	18	17	18	17	17.7	18.5					

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#### COMMUNICATIONS

During June the COMNAVFORV communications center processed 89,762 messages, 5,522 messages less than were handled in May.

At the GAME WARDEN tactical operations center in Nha Be, work on Project SEARCHLIGHT (upgrading communications equipment), nearly complete, was suspended on 15 June pending the arrival of the materials needed to complete the renovation of the local operating positions. The installation team, composed of personnel from the naval shipyard at Pearl Harbor, moved to the GAME WARDEN base at My Tho to begin that phase of the project's cycle.

Meanwhile the construction work and installation of equipment at the Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay, code-named Project BOWLINE, neared completion. On 19 June the testing of equipment began, with NAVCOMMSTA, Philippines and USS ANNAPOLIS (AGMR 1) assisting in the test program. The communications station at Cam Ranh Bay was scheduled to be commissioned in early August.

At Danang the new construction for the Naval Support Activity, Project SEA ANCHOR, continued to progress. By month's end the communications center, transmitter site and receiver site were 80, 85 and 82 percent complete, respectively. The installation of electronic equipment was over 80 percent complete at all three sites.

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Admiral MOORER (left) is met at Tan Son Nhut Air Base by General William C. WESTMORELAND, USA, COMUSMACV, and Rear Admiral VETH.

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ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

On 2 June Captain Alfred R. MARSCHALL, CEC, USN, Commander of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment, assumed the additional duty of Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade. On 6 June Captain Spencer R. SMITH, CEC, USN, Chief of Staff to the Officer in Charge of Construction, Vietnam, assumed the duties of OICC and Deputy Commander, Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southeast Asia. Captain MARSCHALL and Captain SMITH had been acting in the new positions since 12 May for Rear Admiral Paul E. SEUFER, CEC, USN, during the admiral's temporary absence. Illness subsequently prevented the admiral's return.

On 22 June the Honorable Charles F. BAIRD, Under Secretary of the Navy-designate, arrived in South Vietnam for three days of tours and briefings. Included in Mr. BAIRD's itinerary were visits to the Saigon headquarters of COMNAVFORV and the Vietnamese Navy and the Vietnamese Marine Corps, as well as to the naval facilities at Cam Ranh Bay, Can Tho, Binh Thuy, and the Mobile Riverine Base.

On 27 June Admiral Thomas H. MOORER, USN, Chief of Naval Operations-designate, arrived in Saigon. During his stay Admiral MOORER conferred with Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, COMNAVFORV, and visited Binh Thuy, Cat Lo, the naval shipyard in Saigon, and the naval activities in the Danang area.

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MILITARY CIVIC ACTION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

On 13 June, in Binh Thuan province, a joint civic action team went ashore in the hamlet of Long Hai and conducted the kind of mission that has become increasingly characteristic of civic action projects. The team's medical-dental contingent--Vietnamese Navy and U.S. Army and Navy doctors and corpsmen--treated almost 400 children and adults while other team members distributed foodstuffs, textile kits and school kits. Afterwards, a Vietnamese drama team arrived from Phan Thiet and entertained about 2,000 inhabitants of Long Hai and adjacent hamlets. The mission was capped by a brief address from a former Viet Cong political leader who had recently become a Hoi Chanh (returnee) under the Government's Chieu Hoi (amnesty) program.

Similar appeals (either actual or taped) from Hoi Chanh have proved to be effective inducements in persuading the Viet Cong to defect. In June six Viet Cong "rallied" to the Coastal Group 14 base at Hoi An, south of Danang. The defections raised to 15 the total number of Hoi Chanh processed by the Coastal Group since the 19th of May. On that day the Group began an intensive "psywar" campaign which included broadcast appeals made by former Viet Cong. Three of June's Hoi Chanh rallied as a direct result of the broadcasts. One of the ralliers subsequently pointed out several Viet Cong bunkers and weapons caches during a sweep of the area south of Hoi An by U.S. Marines and elements of Coastal Group 14.

In the Mekong Delta, five Viet Cong rallied to PBR patrols

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A Seabee Team corpsman treats a wounded Viet Cong at the P.O.W. compound in Bao Trai, 20 miles northwest of Saigon.

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during the month. On 4 June a Viet Cong hailed a patrol in the Bassac River, raised his hands, and told the patrol officer that he wanted to defect. He added that three fellow Viet Cong also wanted to become Hoi Chanh. The next day he was taken back to his village and the three men turned themselves in, along with a quantity of Viet Cong political propaganda material. On the 6th of June a PBR patrol returned to the village and brought the families of two of the Hoi Chanh to safety.

To handle the influx of Hoi Chanh the Government has established Chieu Hoi Centers in various locales. The Centers conduct rehabilitation and retraining programs, and help the Hoi Chanh obtain employment. Many of the returnees are in poor health and require immediate and continuing medical care.

Some of the care is provided by the U.S. Navy's eight, 13-man Seabee Teams. The Teams' corpsmen visit the Centers regularly in the course of conducting sick calls which take the corpsmen through various villages and hamlets. Frequently the corpsmen also visit prisoner of war compounds and administer aid to captured Viet Cong. During June the corpsmen, operating principally in the Mekong Delta, treated over 3,000 Vietnamese for ailments ranging from diarrhea to respiratory infections.

The following is a tabulation of certain military civic action projects conducted during June by U.S. and Vietnamese naval forces and the Vietnamese Marine Corps. Construction projects involving renovation or repair are so indicated with an R.

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1. Construction:

a. Bridges	1R
b. Dispensaries	1
c. Dwellings	17; 7R
d. Hospitals	3R
e. Leveling-grading projects	2
f. Orphanages	1; 1R
g. Playgrounds	1; 2R
h. Schools	17, 1; 1R
i. Wells	9; 2R
j. Flag poles	2
k. Gates	1
l. Gardens	3
m. Dikes (feet)	100

2. Medical treatment:

a. General medicine	28,040
b. Dental	1,530
c. Surgery	48
d. Emergency evacuations	254
e. Immunizations	890
f. Burns	1
g. Cleft-palate operations	1

3. Health and sanitation:

a. Medical aides or nurses trained	2
b. Spray insecticide operations	44
c. MEDCAPs	5

4. Distribution of commodities (pounds unless otherwise specified):

a. Cement	68,520
b. Clothing	18,890
c. Fertilizer	3,000
d. Food	173,003
e. Lumber (board feet)	90,570
f. Medical, non-prescription	175
g. School kits (number)	543
h. Soap (pounds/bars)	240/50,741
i. Tin sheets (number)	730
j. Salt	2,000
k. Blackboards (number)	3
l. Water pumps (number)	1
m. Nails	540
n. Wire	2,000
o. Beds (number)	26



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p. Generators (number)	1
q. White Wash (gallons)	200
r. Plywood (sheets)	150
s. Wallboards (sheets)	60
t. Firewood (truck loads)	40
u. Health kits (number)	148
v. Garden kits (number)	7
w. Magazines (number)	36,225
x. Toys (number)	40
y. Paint (gallons)	50
z. Textile kits (number)	24
aa. Cloth	125
ab. Cigarettes (cases)	10
ac. Mess kits (number)	224
ad. Wheel chairs (number)	1
ae. Crutches (pairs)	24
af. Sewing machines (number)	23
ag. Textbooks (Vietnamese and English)(number)	3,448
ah. Paper blankets (number)	1,310
ai. Farming tools (number)	74

5. Educational efforts:

a. English classes/attendance 243/2,338

6. Voluntary piaster contributions in support of:

a. Orphanages 48,680

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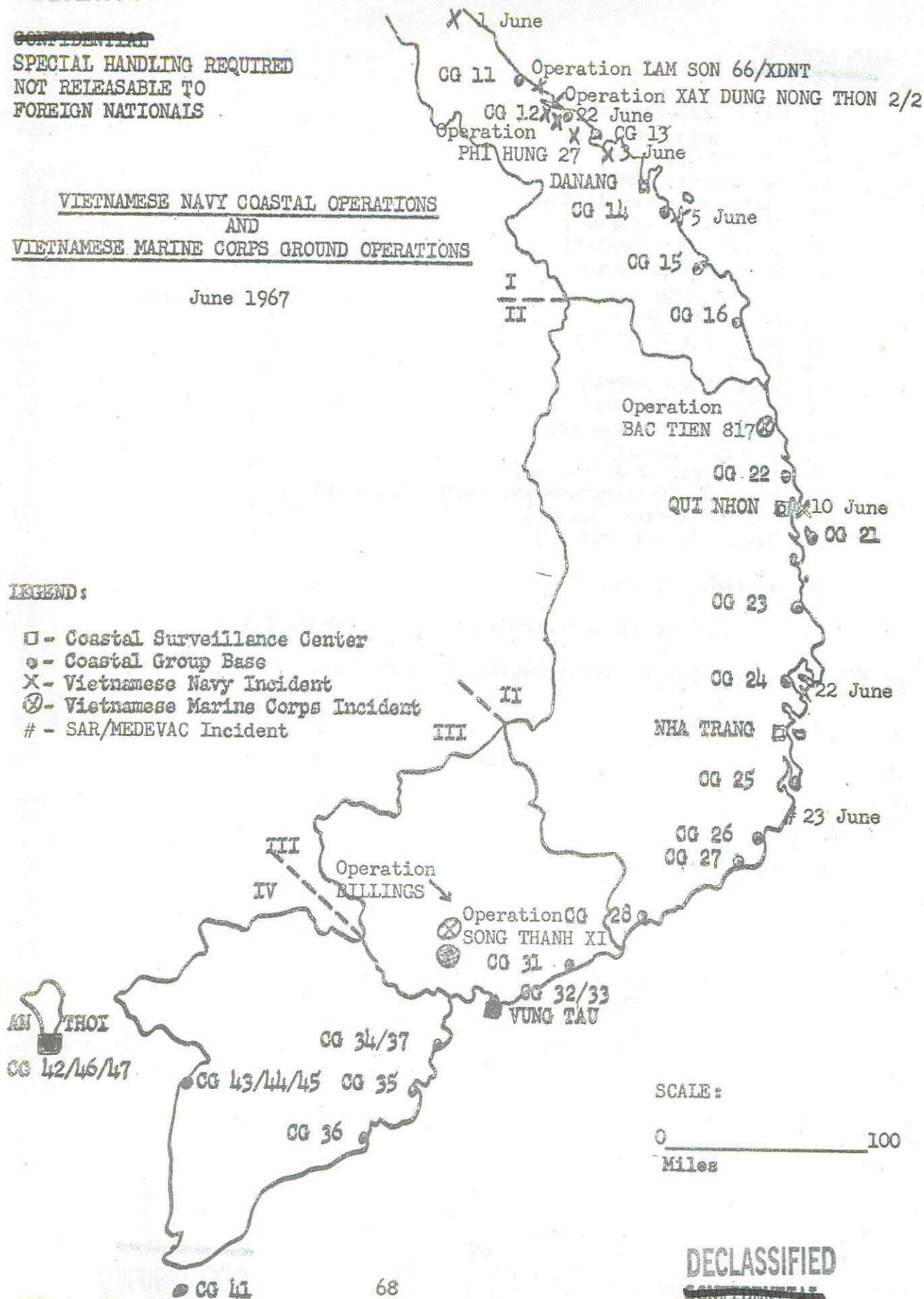
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VIETNAMESE NAVY COASTAL OPERATIONS  
AND  
VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS GROUND OPERATIONS

June 1967

LEGEND:

- - Coastal Surveillance Center
- - Coastal Group Base
- X - Vietnamese Navy Incident
- ⊗ - Vietnamese Marine Corps Incident
- # - SAR/MEDEVAC Incident



SCALE:

0 100  
Miles

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NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP

VIETNAMESE NAVY

The personnel strength of the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) on 30 June was 15,995 officers and enlisted men. The number of personnel discharged as deserters increased from 35 in May to 57 in June; the number of unauthorized absentees dropped for the third straight month, declining from 314 in May to 310 in June.

On 11 June the Vietnamese Navy received a yard oiler (YOG), the third oiler received thus far under the U.S. Military Assistance Program. The craft was scheduled to become operational in August.

On 20 June the nine remaining River Assault Group craft on loan to the U.S. Mobile Riverine Force returned to their regular units.

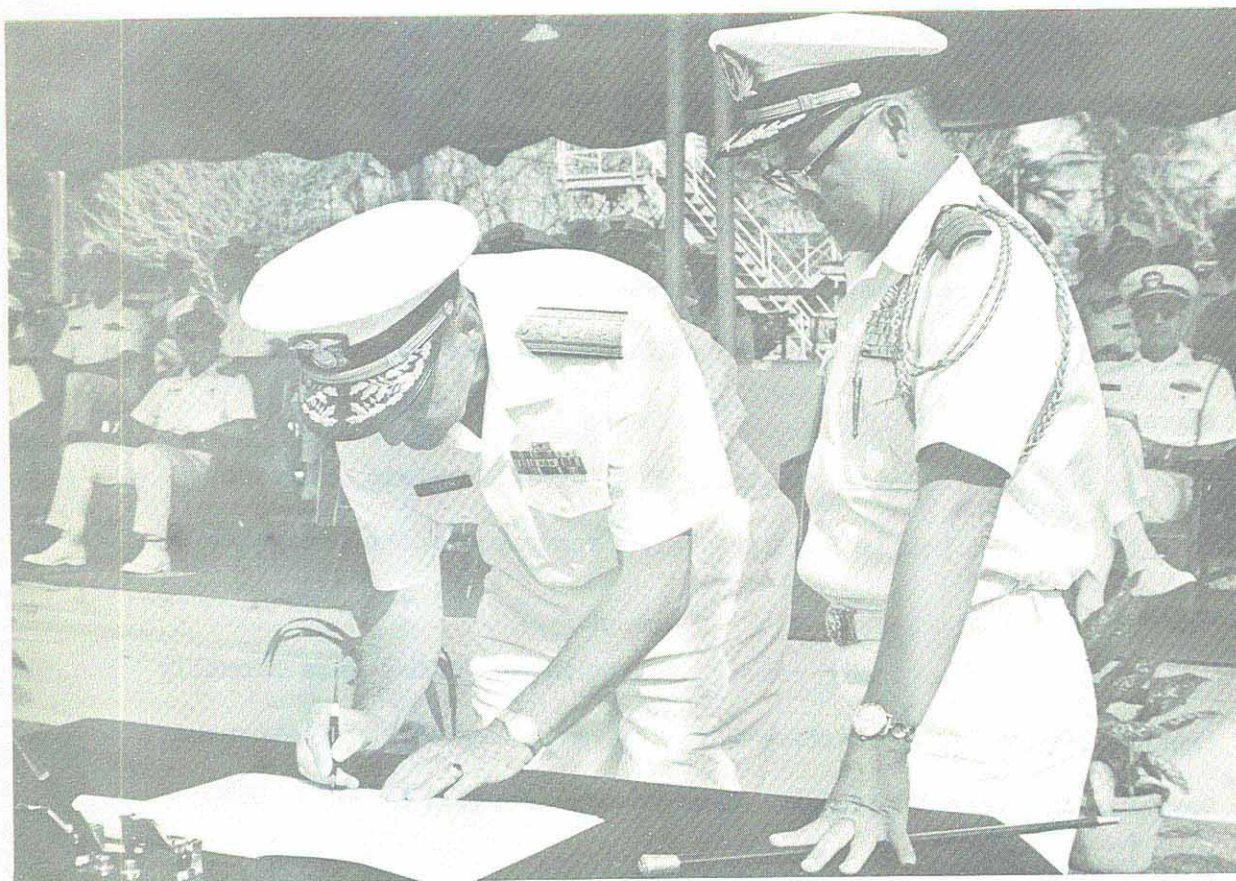
That day, four newly-constructed gunboats (PGMs) were formally transferred to the Vietnamese Navy in a ceremony at the Vietnamese Navy Headquarters in Saigon. Rear Admiral Kenneth L. VETH, USN, COMNAVFORV, signed the transfer certificates on behalf of the Military Assistance Program. Accepting for the South Vietnamese Government was Captain Tran Van CHON, VNN, Chief of Naval Operations. The four ships had arrived in South Vietnam in April; two of the ships completed shakedown training on 11 May and the remaining two on 9 June.

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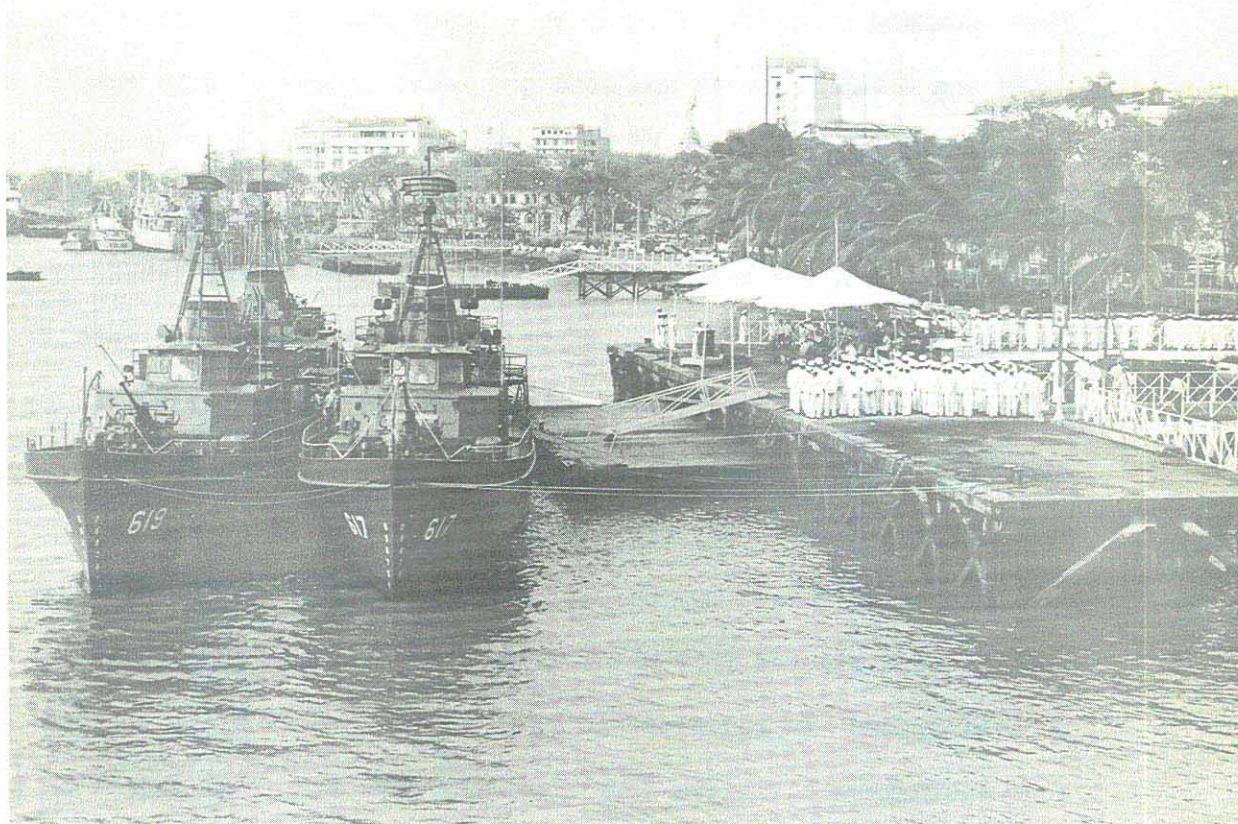


As Captain CHON looks on, Rear Admiral VETH signs certificates transferring...

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...four new PGMs during a ceremony in Saigon.

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#### Fleet Command Operations

Of the 30 ships available to the Fleet Command in June, 12 were maintained on station off the coast of South Vietnam, four conducted river patrols, and one performed convoy escort duty between Vung Tau and Tan Chau. During the month the ships of the Fleet Command conducted 31 gunfire support missions, searched 624 junks and 2,745 persons, and detained seven junks and nine suspects.

Patrol craft (PC and PCEs) patrolled off the coasts of the First, Second, and Fourth naval zones. At 1635 on 10 June PCE 12 conducted a gunfire support mission for Vietnamese Army (ARVN) ground forces, 24 miles south of Qui Nhon. Four Viet Cong were killed and several others were wounded in the incident. PCE 12 fired eight other small-scale gunfire support missions in the Second Naval Zone during the month.

Gunboats (PGMs), meanwhile, conducted patrols in the Rung Sat Special Zone and the four Naval Zones and fired six gunfire support missions. In addition, at 0230 on the 23rd, PGM 614 rescued four Vietnamese civilians from a sinking junk near Dinh Point, 50 miles south of Nha Trang, and transported them to the Coastal Group 26 base at Phan Rang.

Support landing ships (LSSLs and LSILs) provided gunfire support and acted as convoy escorts in the Third Naval Zone, the Fourth Riverine Area and the Rung Sat Special Zone. The ships

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conducted a total of 16 gunfire missions in June. On the afternoon of the 4th, 18 miles south of Vinh Long, LSSL 28 assisted a beleaguered Popular Force outpost at Duc My on the Co Chien River. The craft's gunfire helped repel a platoon-size Viet Cong force. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

On the morning of 17 June, one mile farther south, LSSL 228, supported by two PBRs, came to the aid of the Lo Xe Defense Post, which was under attack by two Viet Cong companies. The gunfire provided by the three craft helped drive the enemy off, but not before 40 percent of the post was destroyed by fire.

On 27 June LSSL 228 joined eight PBRs in conducting an Operation FERRET mission along the Co Chien, 10 to 20 miles south of Vinh Long. During the six-hour operation 102 junks and 278 persons were searched, one enemy junk was sunk, and one Viet Cong was killed.

In June one minesweeper (MSC) conducted coastal patrols in the Fourth Naval Zone. On 8 June the 10 MLMSs assigned to the RSSZ instituted a revised sweep plan in the Saigon, Nha Be and Long Tau Rivers; the plan increased the number of miles of channel swept daily from 106 to 192. At the same time, the new plan was coordinated with the sweep patterns employed by the U.S. Navy's

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minesweeper detachment at Nha Be.\*

Personnel of the VNN Underwater Demolition Team (LDNN) engaged in diverse activities during the month. In a continuing mission in Saigon, a four-man detachment conducted hull inspections nightly of all ships berthed in the Capital's port. From 19 to 21 June, a detachment composed of one officer and eight enlisted men, together with two U.S. advisors, conducted a beach survey at Ca Na Point, 57 miles south of Nha Trang. On 27 June, in the Nha Be district south of Saigon, three LDNNs recovered the body of a Vietnamese Ranger who had drowned when a rope bridge collapsed.

The month's 22 logistical missions resulted in the movement of 3,840 personnel and 3,134 tons of cargo. Medium landing ships (LSMs) lifted 1,686 personnel and 1,590 tons of cargo; utility landing craft (LCUs) lifted 1,020 personnel and 574 tons of cargo; and the tank landing ship (LST) lifted 1,134 personnel and 970 tons of cargo.

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\*The coordinated plan provides for 12 chain-drag sweeps daily in the Saigon River; in the Nha Be and Long Tau Rivers, the pattern includes four chain-drag sweeps, eight twin Oropesa-gear sweeps, and eight combined single Oropesa-gear and chain-drag sweeps. The MLMSs, which are not radar-equipped, conduct chain-drag sweeps in the three rivers during the daylight hours. In addition, the MLMSs sweep the Dong Nai and upper Saigon Rivers at various intervals. The U.S. minesweepers (12 MSBs and three specially configured LCM-6s) operate in two sections, from 0200 to 1100 and from 1400 to 2300, sweeping the Nha Be and Long Tau Rivers.

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### Coastal Force Operations

In June the 209 available units of the Coastal Force had a daily employment average of 59 per cent. The units searched 21,030 junks and 81,842 persons, detaining 15 junks and 248 suspects.

On the morning of 1 June, junks from Coastal Group 11 joined with U.S. Marine units in conducting a sweep and blocking action of a river island ten miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. During the mission six Viet Cong were captured, 11 suspects were detained, and a large quantity of medicines and clothing was seized.

In the early hours of 3 June, units of Coastal Group 13 and a Popular Force platoon conducted a sweep along the banks of Cau Hai Bay, 28 miles northwest of Danang; the mission led to the detention of 119 suspects.

During the evening of 5 June, a Coastal Group 14 unit on patrol near Hoi An intercepted seven junks transporting approximately 20 Viet Cong. The VNN craft requested air support, and U.S. fixed-wing aircraft subsequently destroyed four of the junks.

From 18 to 23 June, Coastal Group 14 units and Quang Nam sector forces conducted Operation PHI HUNG 27 in an area 15 miles northwest of Danang. During the operation ten enemy structures and three recoilless-rifle emplacements were destroyed, six Viet Cong were captured, and 24 suspects were detained. Four other Viet Cong defected.

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From 25 to 28 June, Coastal Groups 12 and 13 and the ARVN 31st Combat Group conducted Operation XAY DUNG NONG THON 2/2, 45 miles northwest of Danang. The results of the operation included: 222 Viet Cong killed, 76 captured, and 40 individual weapons seized. In addition, 45 suspects were detained. During the three-day period, 18 ARVN soldiers were killed and 67 others were wounded. There were no VNN casualties.

On 22 June, in the Second Naval Zone, Coastal Group 25 units assaulted a Viet Cong supply point on My Giang Island, 17 miles north of Nha Trang. Four Viet Cong were killed during the engagement; two U.S. Navy Swiftboats--PCFs 47 and 52--provided covering fire for the VNN units during their successful withdrawal.

In the Third Naval Zone, on the afternoon of 5 June, Coastal Group 35 units ambushed a Viet Cong junk in the Co Chien River, three miles east of Phu Vinh. Six Viet Cong were killed during the incident. In addition, several enemy weapons fell into the river and a quantity of documents was seized.

At 2200 on 8 June, four junks from Coastal Group 36 intercepted two Viet Cong junks at the mouth of the Bassac River. In the ensuing fire fight, four Viet Cong were killed, three individual weapons were seized, and the two junks were destroyed.

On the 16th, junks from Coastal Group 33 and two Special Forces platoons from the Go Cong sector conducted Operation CUU LONG 93, near the mouth of the My Tho stretch of the Mekong River.

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After landing the troops, the junks conducted blocking patrols. The results of the one-day operation included: 13 Viet Cong killed, one suspect detained, and five rifles and 172 grenades seized. Three Special Forces soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded.

On 28 June, Coastal Group 33 conducted Operation HOA BINH 10/67 on Loi Quan Island in the Mekong River. During the mission, six Viet Cong were killed and five suspects were detained. In addition, an automatic rifle, 327 grenades and over 1,100 rounds of assorted small-arms ammunition were seized.

#### Riverine Command Operations

In June the River Assault Groups conducted three operations in the First Naval Zone, six in the Third Riverine Area and nine in the Fourth Riverine Area.

The RAG units also performed escort duty and conducted river patrol, base defense and psychological warfare missions. With a daily average employment of 70 per cent of the available 147 craft, the RAG units searched 2,512 junks and 6,585 persons, and detained two junks and five suspects.

From 12 to 14 June, 60 miles northwest of Danang, the First Naval Zone's RAG Detachment supported Operation LAM SON 66/XDNT, conducted jointly by the 2nd ARVN Airborne Combat Group and Regional Force units. Three Viet Cong were killed during the operation, and one suspect was detained.

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On the 22nd, the RAG Detachment and units of the Huong Tra subsector conducted a search and destroy operation seven miles northwest of Hue. Five Viet Cong were killed that day, and a small quantity of arms was seized.

In the Third Riverine Area, RAG 30 provided continuing support for the U.S. Army's Operation FAIRFAX for a total of 14 days in June. On 5 June, nine RAG craft and embarked troops conducted a search along the banks of the Dong Nai River, east of Saigon. The units captured three individual weapons, four B-40 rockets, and searched 40 junks and 72 suspects. Four Army soldiers were wounded during the mission.

On 7 June, 13 craft from RAGs 24 and 28 and units of the U.S. Army's 199th Light Infantry Brigade commenced Operation DELTA 2 along the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay rivers, 21 miles southwest of Saigon. The operation ended on 11 June and resulted in the detention of 3 Viet Cong suspects, and the destruction of 374 Viet Cong defense positions and 55 punji-stake pits. On 14 and 15 June, seven craft from RAGs 24 and 28 supported elements of the 199th Brigade in a search and destroy operation along the same stretch of the Vam Co Dong River. Six Viet Cong were killed during the mission, and two Viet Cong and a quantity of medical supplies were captured. One U.S. soldier was killed.

In a Delta operation which started in May and extended through 16 June, units of RAGs 23 and 31 joined with two battalions of the

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ARVN NINTH Division to drive the Viet Cong from the environs of the Mang Thit River and Nicolai Canal. The river and canal complex links the Co Chien and the Bassac rivers, and had been under Viet Cong domination for many years. During the operation the RAG units employed infrared equipment with effective results. Infrared searchlights were mounted on trucks and jeeps embarked in the RAG craft and the boat crews were equipped with infrared glasses and weapons sights. The equipment greatly enhanced the ability of the RAG patrols to detect enemy activity along and beyond the river banks, and to land troop elements accordingly.

As a result of the successful sweep of the area, the marketplace near the Mang Thit Bridge, dormant for years because of the Viet Cong presence, was opened for business. To help keep the river-canal complex secure, a section of eight craft from RAGs 23 and 31 remained in the area throughout the month.

From 1 to 3 June, in the Fourth Riverine Area, an eight-Battalion force of the ARVN SEVENTH Infantry Division, supported by 18 craft from RAGs 21, 26, 27 and 32, conducted Operation CUU LONG 59/SD in the Thanh Phu Secret Zone. Thirteen Viet Cong were killed during the operation, 20 more were probably killed, and 17 Viet Cong suspects were detained. Also, the forces captured a large quantity of weapons, ammunition, food and documents, including 20 mortars, 50 blocks of TNT and seven tons of rice and salt. In addition, three enemy craft were destroyed.

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On the night of 9 June, a Bassac River patrol of three craft from RAGs 25 and 29 and a platoon of Ba Xuyen sector forces intercepted and destroyed a camouflaged junk, killing four Viet Cong. The incident occurred 14 miles southeast of Can Tho.

On the 10th and the 11th, RAGs 21 and 27 supported the 12th ARVN Infantry Regiment of the SEVENTH Division in Operation CUU LONG 65/SD, 11 miles north of Vinh Long. The ground forces killed 112 Viet Cong, killed or wounded 60 more, and captured 10 others. The troops also captured four crew-served and 19 individual weapons, and destroyed a Viet Cong ammunition dump.

At 0910 on the 25th, a Mang Thit River patrol was ambushed by two Viet Cong platoons armed with automatic weapons, 57-mm. recoilless rifles and B-40 rockets. In the ensuing fire fight the two patrol craft were heavily damaged and seven sailors were wounded, two of them seriously. The extent of the enemy's casualties was undetermined.

On 26 and 27 June, five miles west of Ben Tre, RAGs 21 and 27 supported elements of the ARVN SEVENTH Infantry Division in Operation CUU LONG 61/SD. Thirty-six Viet Cong were killed during the operation, six others were captured, and 73 suspects were detained.

Vietnamese Navy Statistical Summary

June 1967

	<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
<u>Coastal Force</u>				
I NZ	5,555	22,701	14	175
II NZ	6,783	26,598	1	16

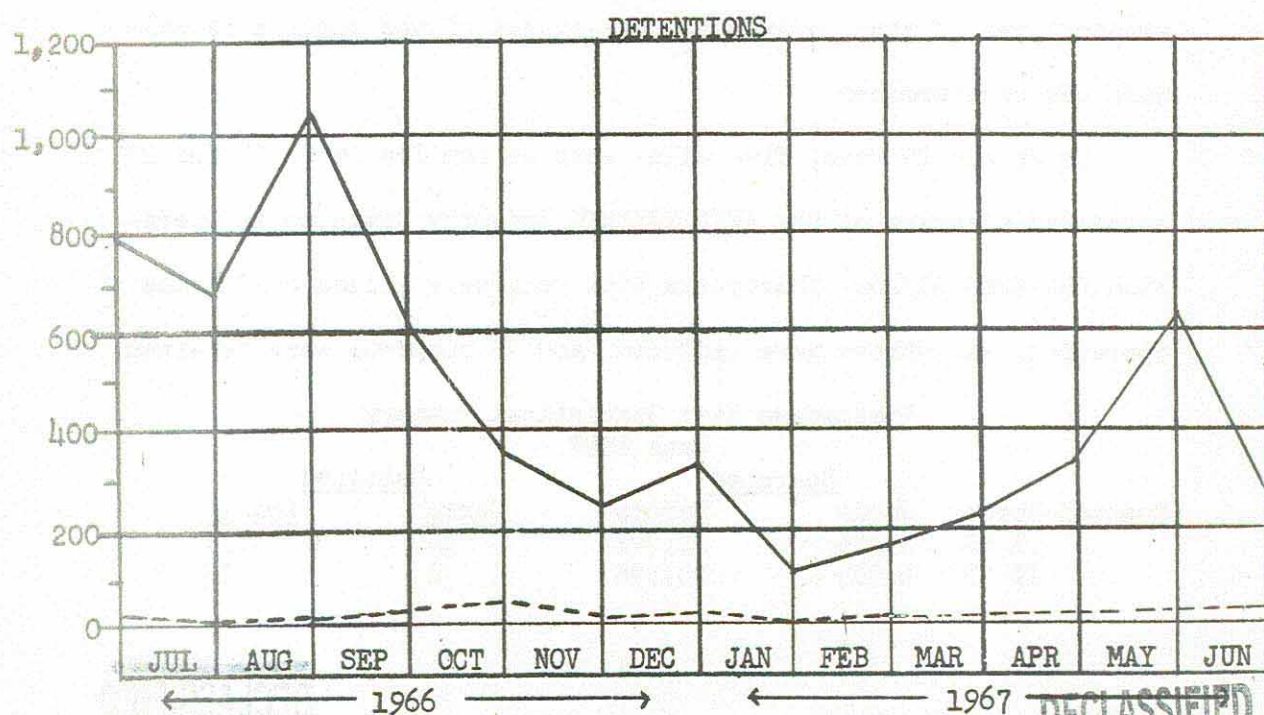
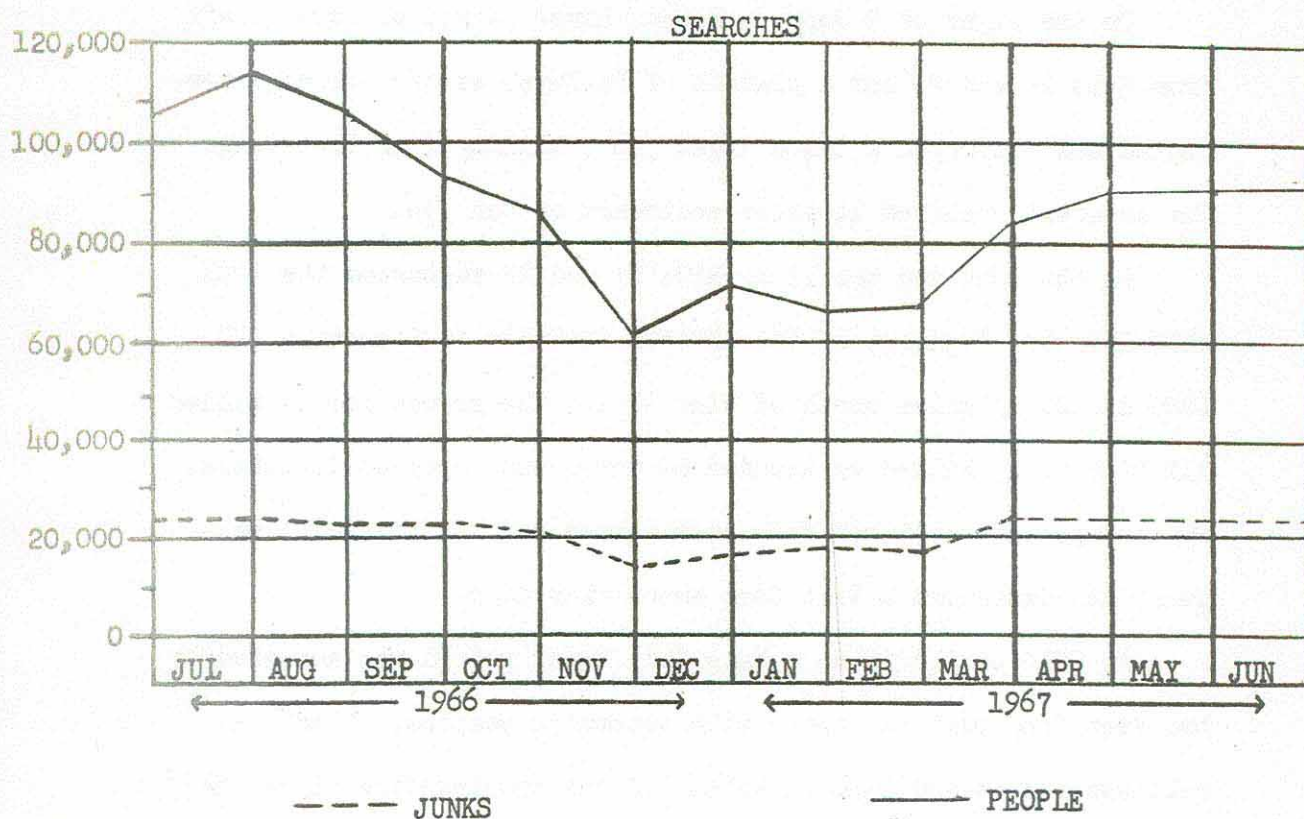
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SEARCHES AND DETENTIONS  
BY VIETNAMESE NAVY SEA, COASTAL AND RIVERINE FORCES



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	<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
III NZ	6,496	25,703	0	57
IV NZ	2,196	6,841	0	0
Sub-Totals	21,030	81,843	15	248
<u>Fleet Command</u>				
Patrol Ships	624	2,745	7	9
<u>Riverine Area</u>				
Craft	2,512	6,586	2	5
Totals	24,166	91,174	24	262

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#### VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

During the month the seven battalions of the Vietnamese Marine Corps operated in the II and III Corps Tactical Zones and the Rung Sat Special Zone. The six infantry battalions were committed to operations 92 percent of the time and the three batteries of the Artillery Battalion were committed 93 percent of the time.

Throughout June Brigade Force A, consisting of a headquarters, the 4th and 5th Battalions, and Battery B of the Artillery Battalion, continued Operation BAC TIEN 817 in the Bong Son area of the II Corps Tactical Zone, 40 miles north of Qui Nhon. In a series of scattered skirmishes with small enemy units, the Force killed 66 Viet Cong, captured twenty-seven, and detained 115 suspects. Six Marines were killed during this period and 35 others were wounded.

Brigade Force B, composed of a headquarters, the 1st and 3rd

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Battalions, and Battery C of the Artillery Battalion, remained in the base camp at Thu Duc until 7 June when the Force moved by motor convoy to the village of Tan Uyen, 17 miles north of Saigon. The next day the Marine units commenced Operation SONG THANH XI. The 1st Battalion deployed east of the village and the 3rd Battalion took up defensive positions around the artillery battery and the village. Between the 8th and the 14th the 1st Battalion located and destroyed four enemy base camps, all of which had contained extensive trench and bunker complexes. During the same period, the Marines captured two tons of rice, 400 pounds of salt, and 200 rounds of ammunition.

The 3rd Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion in the field on 14 June. That Day, as elements of the 1st Battalion were returning to Tan Uyen, eight Marines were killed and 30 Marines and one U.S. Marine advisor were wounded by a triple-charge booby trap. The following day, in the same general area, elements of the 3rd Battalion engaged a Viet Cong platoon, killing ten of the enemy and capturing another. One Marine was wounded.

During the rest of the month, the 3rd Battalion made little contact with the enemy. On 16 June a Viet Cong base camp was discovered near Tan Uyen and destroyed.

The 1st Battalion remained in defensive positions around Tan Uyen until 19 June when it was relieved by a company of the ARVN 35th Ranger Battalion. On 20 June the 1st Battalion was lifted by

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helicopters to an area near Phuoc Vinh, 20 miles north of Tan Uyen, to participate in Operation BILLINGS. That day the battalion relieved the 2nd Battalion of the U.S. Army's 16th Infantry Regiment, which had been providing security for Fire Support Patrol Base\* "Gunner One" and a unit of U.S. Army engineers widening Route 1A. From the 21st to the 25th, units of the Marine battalion conducted a series of search and destroy sweeps and located and cleared three anti-tank mines from the roadway.

During the afternoon of the 25th, the 1st Battalion was returned by helicopter to Tan Uyen and relieved the ARVN Rangers. On 30 June the 1st Battalion relieved the 3rd Battalion in the field and the latter returned to Tan Uyen for defensive purposes.

The 2nd Battalion, meanwhile, continued its participation in Operation FAIRFAX, conducting search and destroy, pacification, civic action and rural reconstruction operations in the Nha Be district, south of Saigon. From 1 to 13 June units of the battalion conducted daily patrols and nightly ambushes to help insure the security of the district. On the 14th, the battalion completed its participation in FAIRFAX and returned to the base camp at Thu Duc. Three days later the battalion took up security positions in and near Go Vap, just north of Saigon. On 24 June the

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\* An encampment containing a fire direction center and an artillery battery of five to 10 105-mm. howitzers or 155-mm. howitzers; in some instances, the Base contains 175-mm. self-propelled guns.

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battalion relieved the ARVN 5th Airborne Battalion at Vinh Loc, four miles west of Saigon, where it continued to conduct security-type operations.

Throughout the month, the 6th Battalion and Battery A of the Artillery Battalion continued to conduct operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone. On 3 and 4 June, the battalion located and raided two Viet Cong base camps. During the raids, six bunkers and tunnels and 33 structures were destroyed, and a large quantity of foodstuffs and cooking equipment was seized.

On the evening of 5 June a battalion ambush team took an enemy sampan under fire. Two of the six Viet Cong embarked were killed, two escaped and the other two were presumed killed. The captured sampan contained a rifle, a "claymore" mine and eight rifle grenades.

From the 6th to the 18th, the battalion located and destroyed four Viet Cong base camps. On the 23rd a Marine ambush team killed three Viet Cong and seized a sampan which contained a rifle, 5,000 rounds of ammunition, two anti-tank mines and a box of booby-trap grenades. Between the 24th and the 30th, the battalion destroyed six additional base camps, including one 19 miles southeast of Saigon which had been used as a Viet Cong prison.

Vietnamese Marine Corps Statistical Summary

VC/NVA: 81 KIA, 28 CAPTURED, 119 SUSPECTS DETAINED

VNMC: 15 KIA, 72 WIA, 1 U.S. ADVISOR WIA.

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Certain Materiel Captured or Destroyed:

Base camps	11
Bunkers, trench-line complexes	6
First aid stations	1
Observation towers	3
Sampan	10
Sampan motors	1
Gas masks	1
Booby-trap grenades	8
Claymore mines	4
M-1 ammunition (boxes)	2
7.62-mm. ammunition (rds.)	100
M-1 carbine ammunition (boxes)	2
AK-50 ammunition (rds.)	200
Hand grenades	23
Mines (anti-tank)	12
Medium DH-10 mines (weight: 15 lbs.)	1
Assorted ammunition (rds.)	600
Rice (lbs.)	6,400
Salt (lbs.)	570
Jungle boots (prs.)	50

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The Saigon Naval Shipyard.

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## APPENDIX II

### THE SAIGON NAVAL SHIPYARD

The Saigon Naval Shipyard--largest of its kind in Southeast Asia--occupies a 53-acre site a short distance from the center of South Vietnam's capital. Although the Vietnamese Navy operates two other repair facilities (in Saigon and Can Tho) as well as six smaller repair activities along the coast, the Saigon shipyard is the only facility capable of overhauling craft larger than LCM-8s.

The century-old shipyard (built by the French in 1863 and transferred to the Republic of Vietnam on 14 September 1956) has two dry docks, one of which can accommodate ships up to 500 feet in length and 63 feet in beam; an 87-building complex containing diverse shops able to perform the most complex types of repairs to engines, motors, weapons, and optics; and a 30-ton capacity "floating" crane as well as several smaller mobile cranes.

In recent years a number of projects funded by the U.S. Military Assistance Program (MAP) have provided the shops with new tools and equipment, improved the shipyard's utilities system, and added a 100-ton capacity floating dry dock. During the past year one of the shipyard's shortcomings--waterfront space-- was considerably improved by the completion in August 1966 of a 750-foot pier and the addition of a 400-foot pier in May of this year. The new piers permit increased use of the shipyard's mobile cranes and have eliminated the previous inflexible reliance on "floating" cranes.

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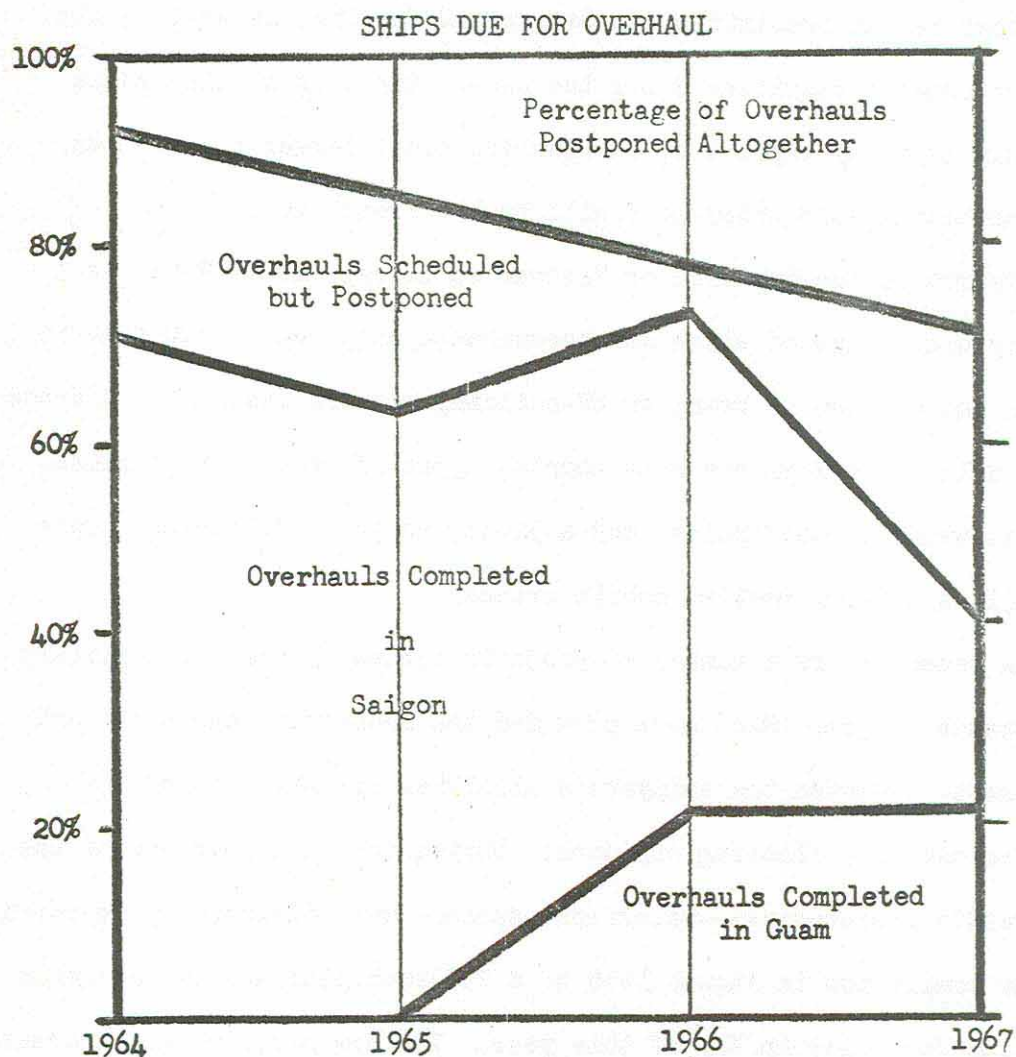
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SAIGON SHIPYARD OVERHAUL PERFORMANCE

BASED ON TWO-YEAR CYCLES





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Despite the shipyard's material progress and first-rate resources, the facility's production rate has steadily declined since the latter part of 1965. The principal reason is that its skilled workers have been leaving for better paying jobs. The manpower shortage has now reached the critical stage, and the exodus threatens the Vietnamese Navy's future progress and military effectiveness. Since June of 1966 the shipyard has been losing about 40 skilled workers and management personnel each month. During this period, 30 semi-skilled or unskilled workers have been hired monthly in an effort to stem the adverse impact on production schedules.

However, the downward trend in the number of skilled employees has overtaken the schedules. In 1965 the shipyard overhauled 23 ships; in 1966 the figure dropped to 10; thus far in 1967 the figure is three. The backlog has necessitated sending some ships to the U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility in Guam for overhaul, an expedient requiring approximately 30 days of transit time in each instance and considerable expense for the MAP. Last year six ships were overhauled in Guam; six more will complete the cycle during 1967.

The new construction program has also suffered. Two years ago the Saigon shipyard was able to build as many as three Yabuta junks in a week. Today it takes three to five weeks to complete one junk. Inevitably, the shipyard's attempt to reduce the rising backlog in the construction and repair schedules with semi-skilled workers has led

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to faulty workmanship, and a resulting increase in the incidence of post-availability malfunctions.

During the past 18 months the Vietnamese Navy, with U.S. Navy assistance, has implemented a number of measures in an effort to help alleviate some of the problem areas. The measures include improved management techniques, new, simplified hiring procedures, better working conditions (especially in the area of safety), reclassification of certain workers to permanent status, draft deferments for key employees, the use of available military personnel, an incentive award program, and increased fringe benefits, e.g., exchange and commissary privileges and medical care for dependents. Last October an apprentice school was established in the shipyard to train newly-hired personnel and to improve the skills of incumbent workers. The first class, comprising 142 men, will complete the course of instruction in August. A second class will convene in October of this year. In addition, the Vietnamese Navy has submitted to the Joint General Staff (JGS) a strong appeal for a substantial pay raise for shipyard workers.

The pay proposal is the key to the problem. The average annual wage for a skilled worker in the shipyard is 64,000 piasters (\$540). The same employee can earn 175,000 piasters (\$1,480) working for a private contractor in Saigon. Because of the inflated economy many shipyard personnel have resorted to "moonlighting" for private concerns in order to earn a living wage. And the shipyard's growing absenteeism



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reflects the part-time outside work performed during the day by some employees.

In January of 1965 the shipyard employed 1,449 skilled workers. One year later the figure dropped to 1,359. In January of this year the figure was 1,191. At the present resignation rate, the level will descend to 859 by December and to 644 by June of 1968. More significant, however, is the fact that approximately one-half of the employees currently listed as "skilled" are actually semi-skilled beneficiaries of the continuing exigency.

The shipyard's personnel plight has been the subject of numerous studies and proposals for many years. Although many of the steps taken thus far as a result of recommendations made to the JGS by the Vietnamese Navy have provided some measure of relief, it has become increasingly clear that the basic cure for the shipyard's ills lies in commensurate wages. At month's end Chief, Naval Advisory Group readied for submission to Commander, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam a comprehensive analysis of the shipyard's personnel status, including a specific compensation proposal designed to arrest the deteriorating situation.





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APPENDIX III

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

In June the number of chaplains assigned to U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam was 24: five Catholic and 19 Protestant.

During the month the chaplains traveled extensively by helicopter, jeep, boat and fixed-wing aircraft to minister to naval forces in outlying areas. Often, the chaplains accompanied crews on boat patrols. On 19 June Chaplain Raymond W. JOHNSON, LT, CHC, USNR, was wounded by enemy fire while accompanying units of the Mobile Riverine Force during Operation CONCORDIA I.

In addition to conducting religious services, the chaplains held instruction classes and conducted retreats and conferences. The chaplains also conducted religious services for the Vietnamese and taught at local schools. On a continuing basis, the chaplains participated in numerous civic action projects and assisted actively in the distribution of funds, building materials, food and medical supplies to needy individuals as well as to Vietnamese schools, churches and orphanages.

The following tabulation is a statistical summary of the religious services conducted during June:

1. Religious Services:

a. Divine Services:

(1) U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam Installations

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	144	119	263

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	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Total</u>
Attendance	4,901	844	5,745
Communed	1,697	465	2,162

(2) Other Military Installations

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	44	10	54
Attendance	1,622	112	1,734
Communed	988	82	1,070

(3) Civilian Churches

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Services	2	2	4
Attendance	381	2	383
Communed	151	2	153

b. Religious services conducted by lay leaders and chaplains other than those attached to NAVFORV:

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Chaplains</u>		<u>Lay Leaders</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Attend.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Attend.</u>
Catholic	55	2,394		
Protestant	25	934	16	97

c. Other religious services in which chaplains participated:

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Memorial (3)	185
Kiddush (2)	12
Protestant Monthly Rally	160
Protestant Evening Service (2)	120